

Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1995

U.S. faults Iraq for rejecting oil sales

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraq's rejection of a U.N. resolution that would have allowed limited oil sales proves Baghdad does not care about the suffering of its people, the U.S. State Department said on Monday.

Spokeswoman Christine Shelly said there has been no formal response to the U.N. Security Council's vote on Friday allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months in exchange for food and medicine.

But she acknowledged informal reaction has been negative.

The United States hoped Iraq "would recognize that accepting the resolution and all of its provisions would be in the interests of the Iraqi people," she said.

"But I think that the degree to which they don't respond in that way once again provides more indication that they are not responsive and concerned about the suffering of their own people," she said.

Ms. Shelly said that rejecting the resolution showed that Iraqi officials "intend to continue to use the suffering as a kind of propaganda tool, particularly through the media and other public forms of expression, to try to seek the (complete) lifting of (U.N.) sanctions," imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The resolution removes excuses for the continued failure of the government of (President) Saddam Hussein to give priority to the humanitarian needs of its citizens," she said.

The sanctions have brought widespread hardships to the oil-rich country of 18 million people.

But Ms. Shelly stressed that "the issue here is who is responsible for that suffering. The international community also in the past has made the possibility of selling oil — limited quantities of oil — for as long as the proceeds would be used for humanitarian purposes... Iraq simply never chose to avail itself of that mechanism."

She added: "This was a new effort designed also to respond to some of the Iraqi concerns about this and the Iraqi government appears to have chosen once again to reject that."

Ms. Shelly also reported that two Americans being held by Iraq have been moved to a smaller cell and said it had formally demanded Baghdad move the men to larger quarters pending their release.

"We don't want to kill them, we only want them to surrender and take their place in society again," a military official in the eastern ravine, they said.

Three PKK fighters were killed in another ravine in Tunceli on Monday, the military said.

Two Sikorsky helicopters showered propaganda leaflets over Alibogazi ravine, where up to 500 Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels are surrounded by about 25,000 Turkish troops, and other remote spots in Tunceli.

The leaflets call on the guerrillas to end their fight for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey and "take shelter in the compassion of the two men as a result of their continued detention and requested that they be moved to a larger cell pending their release," she said.

Iraqi officials have indicated that the Polish diplomats, the U.S. protecting power in Iraq since Washington and Baghdad broke relations over the 1991 Gulf war, may visit the two Americans weekly.

Ms. Shelly said the Poles, who most recently saw the two men last Tuesday, will try to see them again Tuesday.

The Americans were arrested by border guards on March 13 after crossing Kuwait's border with Iraq. They have since been tried and jailed for a term of eight years but plan an appeal.

The United States says the men, who work for private contractors in Kuwait, just made a wrong turn and should be released immediately.

Ms. Shelly said the prisoners had been moved to a smaller cell with the explanation being given that they were doing some work on the cell that they had been in previously.

But so far they have not been moved back and hence "they're still in a very small and relatively stark cell."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said last week the Polish diplomats had brought the Americans a refrigerator to keep food from spoiling and other equipment and supplies during their visit last Tuesday.

Ms. Shelly said she did not think that all those goods had been moved to the smaller cell.

Turks bombard rebels with leaflets

TUNCELI (Agencies) — Turkish army helicopters on Tuesday bombarded besieged Kurdish rebels with thousands of leaflets urging them to come out of their ravine stronghold and surrender.

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The committee, investigating

fighting in recent days has been inside Turkey.

Military officials said tanks opened fire on rebels trying to flee Alibogazi, a deep 30-kilometre gash in the Munzur mountains, under the cover of darkness on Monday night. The guerrillas were forced back into the ravine, they said.

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The Tunceli offensive began shortly after about 35,000 Turkish troops poured into northern Iraq on March 20 to destroy PKK bases there in an operation that has worried the West.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, on a visit to the United States, said on Monday her government was withdrawing some troops from northern Iraq but she declined to give a date for total withdrawal.

Western countries have urged Turkey to end the incursion into northern Iraq quickly out of concern for civilians.

Germany has frozen milit-

ary aid and European Union (EU) members have warned the operation might jeopardise a planned EU-Turkey trade pact, much prized by Ankara.

Turkey's National Security Council, an influential advisory body, reported suggested a withdrawal from northern Iraq by mid-May.

However, Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu, the military spokesman, on Tuesday denied press reports that up to 30,000 soldiers were pulled out of northern Iraq over the past few days.

Col. Silahcioglu told the Associated Press that Turkish units were changing locations in northern Iraq occasionally but there were no withdrawals into Turkey.

Turkey pulled out 3,000 soldiers from northern Iraq on April 8.

In Brussels, the Kurdish parliament in exile said on Tuesday it had held its first sitting and appealed for political dialogue with Turkey to end the Kurdish conflict.

"We think the only solution to the Kurdish problem

is through dialogue we want to resolve this through democratic means," Zobeir Aydar, head of the parliament's executive council, told a news conference in Brussels.

"We are not separatists. Our desire is to speak to the government in Ankara," he added.

Asked whether the parliament had approached Turkey officially for talks, Mr. Aydar said the media were being used to relay an appeal for dialogue.

The parliament, which was inaugurated in the Hague on April 12, met in an unidentified location in Europe last weekend to appoint an executive council and draw up a list of committees.

Mr. Aydar said the parliament had passed a resolution on April 6 calling for dialogue.

"In Brussels, the Kurdish parliament in exile said on Tuesday it had held its first sitting and appealed for political dialogue with Turkey to end the Kurdish conflict.

"A war of annihilating the Kurds is in the works and the Kurds have the right to defend themselves."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ben Eliezer recovers after triple bypass

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer was recovering Tuesday after a triple heart bypass, doctors said. The 58-year-old reserve general was conscious and described as "satisfactory." He had suffered heart problems for the last six months.

Britain to send trade mission to Syria

LONDON (AFP) — Britain will next week send its first official trade delegation to Syria in 10 years, a government statement said on Tuesday. The mission from April 24 to 27 will be led by Minister for Construction and Planning Lord Ullswater and include a delegation of around 15 businessmen.

Mr. Ullswater said in the statement that the mission would "concentrate on exploring opportunities for British construction and consulting companies." He said Syria's population was growing at over three per cent a year, and that British companies had the skills to help Damascus meet infrastructure demands caused by such an expansion. "The recent liberalisation of the private sector in Syria and continuing economic reforms mean that now is the right time to visit and for British companies to explore the opportunities for cooperation with local companies," he said. Areas of interest to British companies lay in the fields of water treatment and supply, power distribution and transmission, and general construction.

UAE seizes hashish in ketchup

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Police here have seized nearly 100 kilogrammes of hashish arresting five Pakistanis trying to smuggle the drug in ketchup from the U.S. fast-food chain McDonalds, officials said on Tuesday. The five were arrested last week just outside Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as they were trying to smuggle the drugs into the emirate in a truck, Matar Al Muhaire, chief of the Abu Dhabi anti-drug squad, said. "They used ketchup bottles and other food products by McDonalds and two other international food firms to smuggle the narcotics," he told AFP. "It was one of the most dangerous drug operations in Abu Dhabi. The smuggling technique they used was extremely accurate and sophisticated. They could have succeeded if we were not alerted about them two months ago." Mr. Muhaire said the drugs were destined for Abu Dhabi, which has a population of around 800,000. "It is a very large amount compared to the population," he said. Some of the five were residing in the UAE but declined to say where the drugs had come from.

Israel delivers spy drones to U.S.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has delivered the first of seven advanced unmanned spy planes to the Pentagon in \$240 million deal, an Israeli Aircraft Industries (IAI) spokesman said Tuesday. The Hunter joint tactical unmanned aerial vehicle is a production of the IAI and the U.S. firm TRW Avionics and surveillance group. The other six planes will be delivered by September. The first Hunter was to be transferred to the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps on April 30. The aircraft can stay in the air for eight hours and infiltrate up to 50 kilometres behind enemy lines, day or night. It provides reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition support through daylight television and forward-looking infrared sensors.

Pharaonic artifacts found in sewer

CAIRO (AFP) — Workmen discovered nine bronze statuettes, while digging a sewer in a northern suburb of Cairo, the head of the Supreme Council for Antiquities announced Monday. Abdul Halim Nureddin said the find in Al Qanater Al Khiriya included five statuettes of the god Osiris, a statue of the goddess Bastet, another of the god Horus as a child and two of an unidentified crowned deity. They also found an object believed to be a container for kohl, a Middle Eastern mascara used by the pharaohs, and a pestle and mortar. Mr. Nureddin said the objects probably belonged to the late pharaonic period or the early Greco-Roman era.

Uproar over sex harassment of Israeli female soldier

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army's image as a place of harmony between the sexes has taken a beating, with a discharged woman soldier accusing her commander of persuading another soldier to seduce her and secretly videotape them having sex.

The former president urged that no weapons be included in supply convoys.

No attacks launched in advance of a convoy, and public notice given before any such movement.

Mr. Carter, president from 1976-80, now heads the Carter Centre in Atlanta. Violations of the ceasefire began within days of its declaration, notably in the Laftron region.

In Nairobi, Sudanese rebels said on Monday that government planes heavily

bombed villages in southern Sudan.

The South Sudan Independence Army (SSIA) led by Rick Machar said Russian-made Antonov transport planes bombed villages of the Pari people and others held by rebels in eastern Equatoria on Sunday.

"If I call upon all parties to exercise restraint and to observe the ceasefire commitments," Mr. Carter said in a statement, citing reported violations in the south of the March 27 ceasefire.

Government and rebel leaders have interpreted differently those ceasefire provisions addressing how civilians and troops may receive food and other necessities during the truce, he said.

"After 13 years of devastating civil war and fratricide there is little trust among the warring parties in Sudan," Mr. Carter said.

The alleged violation was the third reported by SSIA since the two-month ceasefire as part of Mr. Carter's campaign to eradicate the para-military guinea worm and river blindness which are endemic in the south.

John Garang, who heads the mainstream rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said last Tuesday that fighters from breakaway factions such as SSIA were rejoining his movement, notably in the Laftron region.

In Nairobi, Sudanese rebels said on Monday that government planes heavily

bombed villages in southern Sudan.

"We know that there is

about one complaint filed for every five incidents that occur," she said.

Brigadier General Israel Oron, who heads the women's corps, said female draftees are encouraged to file complaints if they are sexually harassed.

But she admitted this may not be enough.

"I figure that there are more incidents than complaints," she said. "Some (women) soldiers don't do anything about these incidents, some are afraid."

The episode comes at a time of growing debate over the role of women in the army.

Women have served as tank instructors, usually they are assigned secretarial or support roles in the military.

The army is defending itself before the supreme court

for its refusal to allow 23-year-old aeronautics student Alice Miller into the air force.

It argues maternity could cut short service or make it difficult to maintain fitness.

The army also recently announced it would shorten women's mandatory duty from 22 to 19 months, only to reverse itself within weeks, insisting it considers women invaluable to national defence. Men serve three years.

The debate sank to ignoble depths in January, when a senior armoured corps officer told high school students that historically men have been warriors and women prostitutes.

The army reprimanded Colonel Gershon Haacohen and he apologised, but critics said the statements reflected the widespread unspoken feeling in the army that women soldiers are superfluous.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ZARQA

Dr. Rajah Saqr 901290

Khalid's pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192-621111-637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 634240

Traffic Police 686390

Police Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 637055

Amman Municipality 637131

Al-Khalid Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 644281/6

Home News



Nesime Dokur, sister of murder victim the criminal court Tuesday (Photo by Nidal Abequa, stands while giving her Rama Hussein)

testimony before a three-judge panel at

Court hears 3 American witnesses in Abequa case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three Americans Tuesday testified for the prosecution in the trial of a Jordanian-American accused of killing his wife and kidnapping his two children in the U.S. to Jordan.

The prosecution is trying to prove that Mohammad Ismael Abequa had volatile

temper and that he had threatened to kill his wife in the past.

During a five-hour session, witness Nesime Dokur, the victim's sister, detective Gary Denamin and Linda Sue Mootgomery, a travel agent, who arrived from the U.S. to testify, recalled before a three-judge panel the events that occurred before and after the July 4 murder.

Mr. Abequa, a Jordanian with U.S. citizenship is accused of strangling his wife Nibal, 40, in her apartment in New Jersey on July 4, then fleeing the United States with his two children, Lisa 7, and Sami 4.

Ms. Dokur, dressed in black, testified first. She told the court that problems between Mr. Abequa and his sister had started after Lisa was born.

"I witnessed some of their fights and arguments, and Mohammad was always complaining that he was not happy with his life," Ms. Dokur, 49, said.

She added that a large row erupted between the two couple once and Mr. Abequa,

called a family meeting.

She said that Mr. Abequa told them he "wanted a servant and not a wife," and that she told him then: "If you want a servant you can go and find another servant."

She added, that he almost struck at her for saying that but "my sister pleaded with him to calm down so he would not hit her or hit one of the family."

She said that she later found a letter in her sister's papers from Mr. Abequa apologising for his anger that day and attributing it to anguish he suffered as a result of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war when he was serving with the army.

A few days before the murder, Ms. Dokur recalled that her sister, who was then separated from her husband, called to say he was coming to visit.

She said her sister called again and told her that she was scared and that she wanted to go to a motel, but a few minutes later, Nibal called back and said: "If I don't make him angry he will not hurt us," and Ms. Dokur said: "I respected her decision."

On July 3, Mr. Abequa came to visit her and when his wife told him that her mother was staying with her, he told her he would come back the next day, the witness recalled.

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Sobering most of the time, Ms. Dokur described how after making two visits to her sister's home on July 5 and 6, she called police, who by then had discovered Nihal's body stuffed under her bed.

When detective Denamin was called to the stand the defense objected challenging the legality of a foreign detective testifying in a Jordanian court of law. However, after consultation among the three judges the court decided to hear Mr. Denamin's testimony.

Mr. Denamin testified that his investigation on July 4 proved that Nihal's husband visited his wife's apartment.

After interviewing Mr. Abequa's friends and co-workers in Nashville, Tennessee, where the accused was living, the detective said he learnt Mr. Abequa told one of his friends that he was leaving the country.

The third witness, 29-year-old Linda Sue Montgomery, an employee of American Airlines, who was on duty when Mr. Abequa and his two children left Nashville for London on July 5, said that the accused had reserved three seats on July 3.

Ms. Montgomery said she remembered Mr. Abequa because he did not have the appropriate documents to enter England or Holland since his final destination was London.

The court will reconvene May 3 to bear the defense.

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Rwandan troops search camp for displaced; 100,000 flee

KIBEHO, Rwanda (Agencies) — Rwandan troops searched a camp for the displaced in southwest Rwanda Tuesday, prompting an estimated 100,000 people to flee their tents, witnesses said.

U.N. officials said heavily-armed troops were apparently engaged in an intense "cordón y search" operation of Kibeho camp but there were no immediate reports of any casualties.

A Reuters correspondent who flew over the camp in a U.N. helicopter said he saw one in every five tents in Kibeho either destroyed by fire or smashed to pieces and plastic sheeting was knocked off their roofs.

He said the camp covered five hillsides and four of them were deserted while a sea of displaced people were fleeing with their meagre belongings up the central hill towards sanctuary in a church.

The Rwandan government has been pressing since last year for the closure of camps for internally displaced people in the southwest, arguing that they should return to

their homes.

The hundreds of thousands of displaced within Rwanda and the estimated two million refugees abroad are members of the Hutu majority who fled during genocide and three months of civil war last year.

Meanwhile, twenty-three of Rwanda's state secondary schools, out of a total of 112 before last year's genocidal civil war, reopened their doors to pupils Tuesday morning, the education minister announced.

He did not say how many private schools were functioning.

Primary school classes resumed seven months ago and in March some 65,000 pupils were able to sit examinations to move on to secondary education. The university began operating again on April 2.

Exiled Rwandans said Tuesday they had formed political party to push for the return of some two million refugees who fled Rwanda.

In a statement obtained by Reuters, the Rally for the Return and Democracy in

Refugees who helped organise and carry out the genocide.

Experts get 1st look at holed French ferry

ST HELIER, Jersey (R) — Marine experts Tuesday began an investigation after a French catamaran crashed into a rock off the coast of Jersey, forcing 300 passengers to jump for their lives into choppy seas.

Low tides overnight revealed a large jagged gash about 2.4 metres (eight feet) long in the portside hull of the Saint Malo which was towed into a sandy bay.

Investigators planned to interview the French captain and crew of the ferry later Tuesday.

Terrified passengers reported hearing the boat judder against rocks shortly after leaving Jersey, in the British-owned channel islands on a trip to the nearby island of Sark Monday.

Thirty passengers spent the night in hospital with broken limbs after the scramble into lifeboats when water poured into the hull of the ferry.

One man was in intensive care and another 35 were

treated for bruising and shock, police said.

A French doctor who treated some of the wounded taken aboard another ferry said disaster was narrowly averted.

"There were no ladders on the Saint Malo and people had to throw themselves on top of each other in the liferafts. It's a miracle there were no dead," Pierre Heinrich told reporters.

Some of the 165 German, 40 French and 75 British passengers told of chaos when the boat tipped heavily to one side in waves up to 1.2 metres high.

"We had to jump 15 feet (4.5 metres) for safety into the liferafts... I saw people break their bones in the fall. Some of them went straight into the sea," said German Karl Gottschalk.

"There was a loud bang and then we felt a judder. The boat went over on one side. It listed badly. Water

came up above the window level. It was terrifying," said Mary Gavin.

Some of the passengers returned to the French port of St. Malo Monday evening but most remained in Jersey overnight.

Eyewitnesses said the Saint Malo appeared to have taken a short cut through a passage near the Corbiere Lighthouse which is passable at high tide. It saves about five minutes on the hour-long journey to Sark.

French authorities are carrying out their own investigation alongside that of the Jersey Harbour Office.

Frederic Avierinos, chairman of the catamaran's owners Channiland, said the Saint Malo was three years old.

"It was absolutely up to regulation standards and no technical problem can explain what happened," he told a news conference.

8 killed in air force jet crashes in U.S.

ALEXANDER CITY, Alabama (AP) — An air force jet exploded and crashed Monday in a wooded area while trying to land at the airport in this eastern Alabama town.

All eight people on board were killed, including the assistant secretary of the Air Force.

The plane was trying to make an unplanned landing at the Alexander City Airport when it crashed near a group of houses four miles (6.5 kilometres) from Alexander City, said Lt. Frances Sconi, a spokeswoman for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

The passengers included Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Clark Fister and his assistant, Col. Jack Clark, said air force spokeswoman, Maj. Alvina Mitchell.

The rest of the passengers were air force personnel and one army member who was flying on a "space available" basis, Maj. Mitchell said. Their names were not released pending notification of their families.

A witness said he could see the pilot was struggling with the plane.

Jimmy Keel said he watched the plane fly just above the tree line as he sat on the porch of his bait and tackle shop.

"It was coming a straight line for my store. I could see the pilot fighting the plane," Mr. Keel said. "He was in trouble. He fought it up, it went left, then right, then it exploded."

Another witness said she too heard the plane explode before it crashed.

The plane had been en route to Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, said Lt. Col. Johnny Whitaker, a spokesman for Randolph.



Anti-nuclear protesters representing Greenpeace breached security at the nuclear processing plant and blocked the main road to the site (AFP photo)

Greenpeace breaches security at U.K. plutonium-making nuclear complex

LONDON (AP) — Greenpeace protesters broke into Britain's biggest nuclear power complex to highlight its production of plutonium, a key ingredient of nuclear weapons.

It said the party was set up due to a "consistent refusal by the Kigali government of any attempt towards negotiations for a quick and peaceful return of millions of refugees."

Kigali has repeatedly refused to negotiate with what it says are former officials in exile who helped organise and carry out the genocide.

spread of nuclear weapons.

Over 100 demonstrators breached security barriers at the Sellafield Nuclear Complex on the English coast 210 miles (340 kilometres) northwest of London, and blocked the main road to the plant.

Cumbria Police said Monday night that 61 protesters were arrested. They came from Britain and a host of other countries including South Korea, Ireland, Germany, Italy and France,

police said.

Eight were charged with obstructing police or obstructing the highway and released on bail. The others were being processed.

Greenpeace claimed Monday night that five demonstrators were still hidden in the 1.25-square-mile (3.2-square-kilometre) Sellafield Complex. But Cumbria Police said no demonstrators remained inside or outside the Sellafield site.

Support growing for end to Ireland divorce ban

DUBLIN (AP) — A majority of people in this predominantly Roman Catholic country want an end to Ireland's blanket ban on divorce, a newspaper poll showed Monday. The Irish Marketing Surveys Group poll of 1,057 people at 75 locations in Ireland last Wednesday showed support for divorce reform was highest among people aged 25 to 34. More than 60 per cent of those questioned backed moves to reform the divorce laws, a rise of 4 per cent since a similar national poll last November. About 31 per cent were opposed to change, down 3 per cent, according to the survey published in the Irish Independent newspaper. The survey had a margin of error of 3 per cent. Irish law bans divorce and remarriage, but the 1991 census revealed 67,000 people legally separated in this land of 3.5 million. The three-party coalition government of Prime Minister John Bruton says it will back a public referendum late this year or early next year to allow divorce. A similar referendum in 1986 was defeated by a substantial majority.

Bishops attack British film about gay priest

PARIS (R) — A new British film featuring a gay priest is painful to Catholics and treats audiences like voyeurs, the head of the French Bishops' Conference said in a letter published Tuesday. Monsignor Joseph Duval, in a letter sent to French bishops Monday and printed by the daily *Le Figaro*, highlighted "recent media events which have been a source of suffering for many Catholics in this country." He criticised the "complacent" release of the film *Priest*, directed by Antonia Bird, in the middle of Easter holy week. "Saying that celibacy is difficult is self-evident. Who wouldn't believe that there are some failures?" Bishop Duval wrote. "But betting on the commercial success of a film on this question means treating the audience like voyeurs." Father Jean-Michel Di Falco, secretary and spokesman of the Bishops' Conference, had Monday branded the timing of the release a provocation. The film stars Louis Roche as a priest who comes unstuck over his affair with a lover he picked up at a gay club. He gets arrested for indecency in a car, is sacked by his superiors and pilloried by parishioners. A fellow-priest in the film has fewer qualms over breaking his celibacy vow and lives with his housekeeper. The Roman Catholic Church condemns homosexual relationships as unnatural. All its clergymen are meant to be celibate.

Kim Basinger is pregnant

NEW YORK (AP) — Kim Basinger, star of the film *9 1/2 Weeks*, now working on a nine-month production. The 41-year-old actress and wife of actor Alec Baldwin is expecting a baby in November, her publicist, Robert Garlock, said Monday. Basinger, who starred in such hits as *Batman* and the recent *Ready To Wear*, was working on a new Robert Altman movie, *Kansas City*, when she learned she was pregnant. She withdrew from the movie because the film's insurer didn't want to be liable for the risks to her pregnancy, Mr. Garlock said. He said Basinger was feeling great, and well enough to continue to work. Altman asked Basinger to name the baby Robert, or Roberta if it's a girl, the spokesman said.

Undertakers refuse burial of HIV-infected drug addict

SALONIKA, Greece (AP) — Undertakers in this northern Greek port city have refused to bury drug addict who was HIV-positive, his wife said. Four funeral homes contacted in Salonika refused to take care of him, they even refused to help dress him," Fotini Ossas, 26, said referring to her 31-year-old husband Costas who died Saturday of a drug overdose. Costas Ossas' father finally carried the body wrapped in a blanket to his home town near Drama, east of here, where he was buried Sunday.

"MESSIAH": An Israeli policeman drags off disturbed the annual 'Cohanim,' or priests' prayer for Israel and was vilified by dozens of ultra-orthodox Jews (AFP photo)

Simpson prosecution works to build up Fung's credibility as 12th week starts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The prosecution in the O.J. Simpson murder trial introduced new videotape that appears to show a police technician holding evidence the defence claims he did not have until the following day.

Deputy District Attorney Hank Goldberg used the clip Monday to try and bolster the weakened credibility of criminalist Dennis Fung and hurt the defence theory of a police conspiracy to frame Simpson, the former football star, for the murder of his ex-wife and her male friend.

Mr. Goldberg's low-key counterpunches came after Superior Court Judge Lance Ito told jurors he would start interviewing them one by one in his chambers, about three or four a day, to ask about allegations of racial divisions and personal animosity lodged by an ousted juror.

Just as the interviews were about to begin, however, Judge Ito put them off to consider a defence request to have Simpson tried. Last week, Judge Ito said Simpson could not be there, but the defence presented the judge with court cases supporting its position that the defendant should be allowed to hear the interviews.

Simpson faces life in prison if convicted of the killings. The judge also directed Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden to give the defence 15 or 16 audiotapes made by author Marc Eliot as he interviewed former Simpson houseguest Brian Kaelin. In addition, Mr. Darden gave the defence a still-unsigned contract between Mr. Kaelin and Mr. Eliot.

Before testimony began, defence attorney Robert Shapiro apologised to Mr. Fung and Asian-Americans for facetious remarks he made about Mr. Fung last Thursday while handing out Chinese fortune cookies.

"My heart has been heavy all weekend if even one person has been offended, and for that I sincerely apologise," Mr. Shapiro said.

Attention then turned to Mr. Fung, who spent most of his eighth day on the stand under redirect examination. With about 30 minutes to go, defence attorney Barry Scheck began his cross-examination, which was to continue Tuesday.

Under questioning by Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Fung explained to jurors why he told a grand jury he collected

evidence that was actually picked up by an assistant, why he didn't wear latex gloves at the crime scene and why they should not believe a defence allegation that he handled a bloody envelope with bare hands.

Much of Mr. Fung's redirect testimony focused on a vial of Simpson's blood that the defence has used as a key point in the frame-up theory.

Although Mr. Fung said he still could not remember exactly what he did with the vial, a second-by-second view of the new tape showed him apparently holding a gray envelope that a detective has contained the blood sample.

Shortly after Mr. Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were slain on June 12, news crews swarmed around the crime scene and the former football star's estate, documenting the comings and goings of police.

In the few frames, taken from afar with a telephone lens, Mr. Fung was seen standing in the foyer of Mr. Simpson's home with Vancouver and another police employee.

Mr. Mai, 54, has helped guide Hanoi's U.S. policy since the early 1970s peace talks in Paris, where he was a junior negotiator, and is its chief point-man on the question now that ties are finally improving.

He remembers U.S. chief negotiator Henry Kissinger and other U.S. wartime figures, but respects only those Americans who opposed the war — a number which included Mr. Clinton.

"I think there is growing interest in the United States over relations with Vietnam," he said. "Actually there is no political difference either."

"But it is up to the president to decide," Mr. Mai said in an interview ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Communist victory in the Vietnam War on April 30.

When Saigon, capital of U.S.-backed South Vietnam, fell to Communist forces, he was in the central city of Hue and drank champagne with an American friend, a professor, to celebrate.

Mai said.

"I think that if Mr. McNamara fought the wrong war in the battlefields of Vietnam, then Mr. Henry Kissinger is the chief point-man on the question now that ties are finally improving.

Relations with the United States were improving rapidly in all fields, and U.S. investment had grown to \$280 million from \$20 million since Mr. Clinton lifted a U.S. economic embargo against Hanoi in February, 1994, he said.

"I think the prospects are quite bright," he said, "because the American companies, although they come late, they have expertise, they have capital, and I think strong competitiveness."

"The experience of the last year since the lifting of the embargo has shown that there's quite a prospect for U.S. investment," Mr. Mai said, citing agriculture, construction, oil and gas, aviation and transport as key industries.

tries for U.S. investors.

Mr. Mai said diplomatic relations was not a prerequisite for most favoured nation (MFN) trading status, which Vietnam needs to sell more goods in the United States.

Vietnam would continue to cooperate with the United States in its efforts to account for more than 2,000 servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) in Indochina, Mr. Mai said.

He rejected charges by American activists that Hanoi was still holding U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) and said this was not an issue between the two governments.

"I think that suspicion has been buried now because of hundreds of investigations conducted jointly by the American and Vietnamese MIA experts," he said. "They found nothing, no evidence whatsoever."

World News

Support growing
for end to
Ireland divorce
ban

DUBLIN (AP) — A majority of people in this predominantly Roman Catholic country want an end to legislation that has been in place since 1923.

The Irish离婚
Surveys Group poll of 2,750 people at 75 locations across the country showed that 54 percent were in favor of divorce, making it the highest among the 25 to 34 age group.

U.N. spokesman said that 54 percent of those questioned had moved to favor divorce since November, when a similar poll last November showed 48 percent were in favor of divorce.

Bosnian government radio said the nearby Sarajevo suburb of Hrasnica was mortared by Serbs and the United Nations confirmed more than 20 detonations in the town.

The U.N. said six detonations were recorded in Serb-held areas flanking Hrasnica, suggesting an exchange of fire between Muslim-led government forces and separatist Bosnian Serbs who surround Sarajevo.

The Bosnian capital is supposed to be a U.N.-protected "safe area" from which heavy weapons are banned. The United Nations has been relying on negotiation rather than force to police the safe area and weapons ban.

Three shells slammed into government-held Tuzla town, another "safe area" in northeast Bosnia, Tuesday morning, a local source said. The shells hit the walls of a school but there were no casualties but there were no casualties.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Tuesday condemned a decision by a Bosnian Serb liaison officer to prevent the U.S. ambassador from boarding a U.N. flight Monday out of besieged Sarajevo.

Ambassador Victor Jackovich, who was leaving at the end of his term here, had to go instead by road.

Mr. Christopher told reporters the Serb action was "unjustified and outrageous."

In Zagreb, United Nations

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces mortared a supply route west of Sarajevo and shelled a suburb of the city Monday evening.

Bosnian government spokesman said Tuesday.

U.N. spokesman said that

UNPROFOR regretted what happened and has issued both verbal and written protests to the Serbs over the issue, Col. Coward said.

UNPROFOR resumed flying into besieged Sarajevo on a limited scale Sunday, a week after Bosnian Serbs fired at a C-130 transport plane bringing in emergency aid.

But, with the exception of French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, who flew in over the weekend in the wake of the killing of two soldiers from the French contingent here, UNPROFOR has refused to transport any civilian passengers.

UNPROFOR was "well-aware of the disquiet of Bosnian Serbs" concerning the flying by the United Nations of Bosnian civilians and government officials, including objections raised by Serb commander-in-chief General Ratko Mladic, Col. Coward had explained Monday.

Col. Coward said however that a number of civilian UNPROFOR employees were scheduled to fly out of town Tuesday afternoon as the United Nations continued to "gradually test the water."

The airport is under U.N. control, but surrounded on all sides by government and Serb lines.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed anger Tuesday over the Serb refusal to let the U.S. ambassador to Bosnia fly out of Sarajevo and said he would have "something to say" to the United Nations about it.

The talks were "preparations for discussions" due at the end of the week to Sarajevo and Pale, the stronghold of the separatist Bosnian Serbs, U.N. spokesman Christopher Gunnes said.

The talks were taking place at a British base at Divulje



Muslim-Croat woman Ana Mandic (centre) is comforted by her son as she attends the funeral of her killed husband Frajao. Frajao Mandic died two days ago after suffering injuries last week from sniper-fire in the centre of Sarajevo (AFP photo)

special envoy to former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi. Tuesday met U.N. Bosnia commander General Rupert Smith at Split, in southern Croatia, ahead of talks in Sarajevo with Bosnia's warring parties, U.N. officials said here.

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Bosnia becomes election issue as Balladur threatens pullout

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1995 5

PARIS (AFP) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Tuesday threatened to pull French peacekeepers out of Bosnia as the war there suddenly became an issue in France's presidential election campaign.

The sniper killings of two French soldiers in Sarajevo Friday and Saturday caused outrage in France, but could also provide a much-needed boost for Mr. Balladur's flagging campaign.

The prime minister, who is trailing in third place behind the favourite, fellow Gaullist Jacques Chirac, and Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin, has benefited from the limelight as his rivals tried but failed to outdo him.

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If his conditions were not met, Paris "would have to decide on the withdrawal of the French soldiers in Bosnia," Mr. Balladur said, at the same time announcing a flurry of diplomatic moves.

Only one candidate, far rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen, has called for outright withdrawal of the French forces, saying it was "an aberration and criminal to throw men into such a confused scrum."

Mr. Chirac, for his part,

said he favoured serving the warring sides with an ultimatum and, if that failed, considering air strikes, while Mr. Jospin had difficulty in taking a different line from the prime minister, calling for "greater firmness" in face of the Serbs.

Mr. Balladur Tuesday called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to take measures to protect U.N. forces and asked Mr. Juppe, who later left for New York to attend a nuclear non-proliferation conference, to meet U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and hold talks with other contributor countries to the U.N. force.

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Opinion & Analysis

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Environmental alarms

A MASTER'S degree dissertation submitted recently by a student to the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Jordan made new and additional revelation on car emissions that are both shocking and challenging. The research paper first outlined the extent of the crisis by providing salient data ranging from the fact that vehicle population in the country increased by 90 folds since the 1950s and that 70 per cent of these automobiles are registered in Amman. Yet the more troubling information is the disclosure that 49 per cent of all cars in the Kingdom still emit poisonous gases, such as carbon dioxide in amounts that are much higher than internationally permitted and 60 per cent of all diesel engines eject black smoke in amounts also exceeding all acceptable standards.

Ironically, these new scholarly findings coincide with the convening of a seminar on dangerous emissions by the Engineers Association which also highlighted the problem associated with industrial pollution and wastes as well as with the contamination of agriculture by the abuse of insecticides and pesticides. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat was more than candid in describing the extent of the national negligence even on the purity and quality of our drinking water. The minister's punch line, though, was his contention that 80-90 per cent of cancer cases in the country are attributable to pollution and contamination of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.

In retrospect, these findings only confirm what we have always suspected. Jordan is simply lagging behind other countries in its legislation on the environment. Mr. Thuheirat called for an early enactment of the draft law on environmental protection and we hope, therefore, that Parliament would take action on the draft law when it reconvenes.

What is even more urgent is the enforcement of already existing environment protection measures. The government's interest in protecting the environment appears to be slackening instead of increasing, judging by the feeble way it enforces even existing half-baked laws. Take, for example, car emissions, which have been targeted on previous occasions by the Traffic Department. At best, the sporadic surveillance of the problem was inconsequential since cars still emit black smoke and poisonous gases as ever before. Recently, unleaded fuel was introduced to the market but this much belated step was not coupled with any marked publicity campaign to encourage the import of cars which can use unleaded gasoline only. More environment-conscious nations stopped the importation of automobiles using leaded benzene a long time ago. This much we can do with little or no cost since the price tag of unleaded engines is not higher than ordinary ones. Lower custom duties on cars would also mean the phasing out of old cars, which are the main source of dangerous emissions. All in all, there is a lot more that we can and ought to do that we are not doing.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday discussed municipal elections scheduled for July this year, expressing disappointment with the poor public turnout for voter registration. Tareq Masa'weh said that should the rate of voter registration remain at this low level, it would be far better for the government to postpone the municipal elections. If the Jordanian citizens are not interested in choosing their representatives to run municipal services, why should the government bother to organise the elections at all, said the writer. He said the government could appoint public officials who can run municipalities in accordance with its own plans and in a manner that is considered most suitable for the local communities, if people are not interested in the elections.

TAHER AL Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, commented on the meeting in New York by delegates from various nations to discuss the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is regrettable, said the writer, that the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement have no say in the meeting as they are all influenced by the decisions of the major world powers, particularly the United States. Therefore, the developing nations are bound to agree to the extension despite their knowledge that Israel, which possesses nuclear weapons, continues to refuse to sign the accord in defiance of the world community, said the writer. The New York meeting will no doubt be influenced by Washington and world Zionism; and the Arab states, along with the other developing nations, will have no choice but to succumb to the American-Zionist will, according to the writer.

M. KAHIL



Milosevic believes time on his side

By Sean Maguire
Reuter

BELGRADE — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is banking on Western eagerness for a peace deal in Bosnia at almost any price to deliver his long-term goal of regional supremacy, diplomats say.

He calculates that international frustration at his failure to recognise Bosnia will fade, the Bosnian war will end in his favour and that sanctions will crumble, leaving him paramount in the Balkans.

"Milosevic thinks time is on his side," said one Western diplomat reflecting on the stalled peace process.

The U.N.'s powerlessness to answer the weekend sniping deaths of two French peacekeepers illustrated the international paralysis in Bosnia, which Mr. Milosevic exploits.

"He feels it works to his advantage, that in the long-term he can duck sanctions, change rulers in Pale (the Bosnian Serb capital), hold onto the Krajina (Croatian) Serbs and end up with a de facto greater Serbia," the diplomat said.

Diplomats say Mr. Milosevic is trying to engineer Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic's dismissal and install puppets who will accept the Contact Group plan.

The deal gives the Serbs half of Bosnia bound in only the loosest of unions to the Muslim-led Sarajevo government.

The West needs Mr. Milosevic to oust Mr. Karadzic and it is this vital

role which he will exploit to keep the Contact Group, increasingly desperate to end the war, coming back to his door to discuss sanctions and recognition.

"The process will keep going, we'll continue to engage with him," said one weary diplomat who denied further concessions would be made soon to encourage Mr. Milosevic's cooperation.

Mr. Milosevic argues both that he has no role in Bosnia, hence sanctions imposed for interference in the war there should be lifted, and that recognition cannot happen until the political status of Serb communities in Croatia and Bosnia is resolved.

The apparent contradiction between a strong Serb interest but no interference in Bosnia reflects a desire to be rid of sanctions but not at the cost of abandoning the primary war aim of tying together Serb-held lands.

If the political cost of winning sanctions relief is too high, Mr. Milosevic is gambling that his ravaged economy can survive the crippling embargo, imposed in 1992, for a while longer.

The sanctions regime may collapse in any case, with the neighbouring states whose economies bear the brunt of enforcing the trade embargo refusing to pay the cost, diplomats fear.

Whether sanctions wither or end by international order it is doubtful they will stop Mr. Milosevic from gaining control over client Serb states in Bosnia and possibly Croatia, giving him the "greater Serbia" he publicly denies is his goal.

If he succeeds in removing Mr. Karadzic the half of Bosnia that will fall to the Serbs in the Contact Group peace plan will be under his effective rule. Mr. Milosevic also controls the rebel Serbs who rule a third of Croatia.

Belgrade diplomats refuse to bet who will win in a war of nerves between the West and the master political strategist of the Balkans.

Mr. Milosevic is showing supreme confidence still, said one Western envoy. "He hasn't had to make many concessions yet and his confidence is so great it borders on arrogance."

Yen's rise, dollar's fall cause mixed fallout in Asia

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

SEOUL — Not everyone is crying about the yen's recent jump and the dollar's plunge. A withering freeze to some around Asia, the wild currency fluctuations springs windsfalls on others.

Winners range from South Korean carmakers to Thai resorts to the Rolling Stones touring Japan. Losers include Japanese exporters and countries paying off loans in yen.

Singapore's good news story is typical in Asia. Its dollar has gone up against the greenback and down against the yen.

"The net impact will be a mixed bag," said Mamindar Singh, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute in Singapore. "But we are not too worried about it. We are still fairly competitive."

About 22 per cent of Singapore's imports are from Japan, which the rising yen will make more expensive. But the stronger Singapore dollar will effectively neutralise rises for importers of U.S.-dollar-priced goods and help keep a lid on inflation.

It will take months for the fallout to trickle down completely, but some people are being hit now.

"The short-term answer is, it is hurting us," said Toyota Australia spokesman Patrick Neville, whose company faces price rises of 8 per cent to 10 per cent in the coming months.

Tan Chong and Sons Motor Co., which distributes Nissan cars in Singapore, already has raised prices once and plans another hike by next week.

Hong Kong electronics importer Anthony Cheung, who originally took a wait-and-see approach, has been forced to increase the price of T.V. sets with Japanese-made picture tubes.

As the cost of overseas travel for Japanese goes down, hoteliers and travel agents around Asia are marketing vacations targeting Japanese tourists. Thailand, with its highly developed resort industry, stands to benefit in particular.

Some countries will come out ahead as industries seek cheaper places to operate.

Singapore said Singapore can look forward to more high-end investments by Japanese companies in research and development and high-tech production.

China could benefit, too, but will have to do more to cut costs, raise efficiency and improve product quality, said Chen Wenjing, deputy chief and senior economist with the Trade Ministry's International Trade Research Institute.

On the down side, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Jordan and other countries have loans in yen that have skyrocketed in value almost overnight.

While stressing its ability to repay, China has repeatedly appealed to Japan to reduce the burden of its 1.68 trillion yen (\$20 billion) debt. Yen loans account for 40 per cent of China's national debt.

"It is true that China and some other countries are making such requests," Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said. "But we have been telling them that we cannot easily act at this point."

Analysts say Indonesia's debts go up at least \$300 million for every 1 per cent that the yen rises against the dollar.

A prolonged fall of the dollar... will squeeze our economy... and the government will be forced to contract public spending," said Pandit R. Sitalah, an economist at Indonesia's Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"South Korea probably will become the biggest beneficiary," said Kwon Soon-Woo, a fellow at the

Indonesian Finance Minister Marie Muhammad said agencies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank will be lobbied to make their loans in U.S. dollars.

Taiwan worries that its goods will be replaced by cheaper Chinese and Mexican products in the U.S. market. Its currency, which has been rising against the U.S. dollar since 1987, has appreciated another 4 per cent against the greenback since January.

"If the dollar's decline continues, we may see another economic reshuffling like what happened in 1985 when the yen last soared," said Tsai Hung-Ming, an economist at the Federation of Industries.

The 1985 yen appreciation boosted the exports of Taiwan, South Korea and other newly industrialised nations. The dollar's decline this time could give rise to new economic powers such as China, India, Vietnam and Thailand, Mr. Tsai said.

Hong Kong's main fear is that because its currency is pegged to the U.S. dollar, the higher yen will fuel inflation. Ian Perkin, chief economist at the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, sees it reaching 9.8 per cent at the end of year. Before the yen shot up, the government had projected 8.5 per cent.

The plus side, analysts say, is that it may give a boost to Chinese products competing with Japan's. Chinese manufacturing is crucial for Hong Kong, which reexports much of the production.

South Korean businesses, which have been challenging Japan in electronics, computer chips, cars and bulk carrier ships, are salvaging over the higher yen.

"South Korea probably will become the biggest beneficiary," said Kwon Soon-Woo, a fellow at the

Samsung Economic Research Institute, run by the country's largest conglomerate.

"We don't see any immediate windfalls yet, but if the high-yen trend continues, the effects will show in the coming months."

The Korea Automobile Industry Association this week raised its export target from \$50,000 cars to nearly 1 million because of the rising yen.

Selling electronics to Japan may sound like selling coal to Newcastle, but the Japanese are increasingly looking to South Korea and other countries.

South Korea's Daewoo Electronics' colour television plant can't accept new orders because it's running 24 hours a day already. It exports TVs to Japan.

In Japan, people who are paid in dollars are being squeezed, although many companies are making adjustments.

U.S. air force Maj. Kevin Krejcarek said he feels the pinch when he buys local fish and fresh vegetables. But he said the military makes regular cost-of-living adjustments.

"Will people be affected by change? Yes. Will they be affected greatly? We hope not," Mr. Krejcarek said. "People who spend a lot of yen will feel the pinch more, mostly single people who go out to nightclubs and things like that."

One of the earliest winners in the yen's rise was the Rolling Stones.

The band reaped a windfall by negotiating recent concert stops in yen, Japan's Nikkei weekly reported. Between the contract signing and when they were paid, the rising yen added an estimated \$2 million to the deal.

It sounds like Mick Jagger's studies at the London School of Economics paid off.

Peace – sooner or never

By John V. Whitbeck

THE GO-slow pace of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's intertwined "peace process" and reelection strategy has been premised on the belief that his and his party's electoral prospects would be enhanced by taking no steps and saying and doing nothing which could seriously upset any significant Israeli constituency prior to the 1996 Knesset elections. This strategy has been pursued without any apparent concern for its predictably catastrophic effects on Palestinian attitudes towards a "peace process" which does not appear to be leading anywhere they wish to go. With the current "peace process" stalled on the brink of an explosive collapse and with the Labour Party trailing disastrously in the polls, the bankruptcy of this strategy is clear. Paradoxically, this opens up the possibility of a dramatic acceleration of the actual achievement of peace.

Purely personal and partisan political calculations now demand that the Israeli government promptly begin "permanent status" negotiations that lie ahead promise to be even more difficult. It is high time to call a halt to this ill-conceived, confidence-destroying and near-impossible exercise and to start true peace talks. Even if a true peace agreement needed to be implemented in stages, negotiating the modalities of those stages would be immensely simplified if the destination were agreed and known.

The critical problems which must be resolved if a true Israeli-Palestinian peace is ever to be achieved are already wellknown. So are their potential solutions. The obstacles are more political and psychological than practical or technical. There is little reason to believe that the passage of time will make these problems easier to resolve and ample evidence that it aggravates them and will continue to do so. Even if a further four years were available in which to agree on how a true peace was to be structured, such a delay would not be necessary or even helpful.

If the leaderships which the Israeli and Palestinian peoples now have cannot advance their non-sacred deadline and reach a true peace agreement between now (or, ideally, the prompt holding of the Palestinian elections originally scheduled for last July) and next year's Israeli elections, then peace is simply not possible. What are the arguments — practical, ethical or electoral — for refusing even to try? Israeli-Palestinian peace is not inevitable. It is not a question of "sooner or later". It may well be a question of "sooner or never".

If Mr. Rabin offered his people peace and they accepted it, he would be Israel's greatest statesman. If he offered them peace and they turned it down, he would at least go down in history as a leader who tried to do the right thing and dared to truly lead.

On a practical and technical level, negotiations on "interim status" were always destined to be vastly more complex and difficult

LETTERS

Tennis team needs help

To the Editor:

I READ with interest a report by your staff reporter, Alean Bannayan, on Jordan's participation in the just-concluded Davis Cup competition in Dubai (Jordan Times, April 15).

I wish to thank you for covering the event exactly when most of the other Jordanian media totally ignored it.

Ms. Bannayan indicates rightly that there will not be a bright future for our Jordanian Davis Cup team, and tennis in Jordan as a whole, as long as the team lacks competitive contacts, training and support of the public, officials and the media.

However, I would like to point out that the writer mistakenly reported that Imad Abu Hamda and Khaled Nafa'i lost the doubles match against Bangladesh, while it was Abu Hamda and Khaled Hussein who were defeated 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

As to Khaled Hussein, I wish to say that he is not a total newcomer lacking competitive match experience; he surely needs further support and competition, but if we are to judge by his record, he is one of California's schools' top ranked players and is 10-1 for the state's top-ranked team this season.

Maan K. Hussein,
Amman

Editor's note: We regret the fact that the Jordan Times was unable to correct the error made originally by the news agency which reported the results of the event from Dubai concerning Mr. Hussein's name.

Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1995

King stresses need for unity

(Continued from page 1) such visits reflected the strong relations and cooperation between Jordan and those countries.

The King said his meetings with the political, economic and intellectual leaders of those countries reflected their countries' respect for Jordan and the Kingdom's development plans.

U.S. confident of NPT extension

(Continued from page 1)

and other parts of the world," Mr. Christopher said in New York.

"We regard it as a country that is trying to undermine the peace process ... and trying to go forward with development of weapons of mass destruction."

"We feel no nation ought to go forward with nuclear cooperation with Iran ... it is too dangerous to do so."

Israel, which is widely believed to have a nuclear stockpile, has refused to sign the treaty.

Syria slammed the pressure on Arab countries to agree to an indefinite extension of the NPT saying it would refuse to sign until Israel joins.

"Some parties are applying strong pressure on the Arabs to force them to sign the NPT while making excuses for Israel not to join," the government daily Tishrin said.

Tishrin said the "current situation in the Middle East forces the Arabs to defend themselves by all means."

It said the real aim was to "prevent the Arabs from using nuclear power for civilian means and to stop them developing it."

"The international community must force Israel to sign the NPT otherwise Syria will not join," the paper added.

Iraqi assembly debates deal

(Continued from page 1)

telling the committee the goal behind the "U.S. decision" was "not to limit or end the suffering of the Iraqi people but it is a malicious attempt" to avoid lifting sanctions.

DNA said the various committees would discuss the resolution this week before a full meeting of the assembly — expected next week — to give Iraq's final position.

In Washington on Monday, State Department spokeswoman Christine Shellenbach said reports that it had been turned down.

Hebron mayor assails curfew

(Continued from page 1)

Bank town.

Right-wingers and settlers carried banners against any government attempt to remove the 415 Israeli who live in fortified compounds in the city.

At least three Jews stopped to urinate in the doors of Arab homes, watched by an AFP photographer.

After Passover religious services at the Ibrahim Mosque, which was closed to Muslims, the Israelis marched to a neighbouring Jewish quarter and laid a foundation stone in memory of two settlers killed a month ago.

Five families will live in the new building, settler spokesman Noam Arnon said.

Crown Prince in Doha

(Continued from page 1)

Calling for a greater measure of inter-Arab cooperation in trade, the Crown Prince noted that inter-Arab trade does not exceed 10 percent of the Arab countries'

Kabariti, Christopher hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

The only Arab foreign ministers attending the review are from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, Petra said. The Arab League had requested that all Arab foreign ministers take part in the New York meeting, it noted. Mr. Kabariti also had

meetings with the foreign ministers of Lebanon and Syria to discuss coordination vis-a-vis the NPT.

It said that the four foreign ministers were scheduled to fly to Indonesia on Thursday to participate in the meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement.

HOLY WEEK CATHOLIC SERVICES IN ENGLISH

19 April	- Wednesday	Prayer service and individual confessions (aavara pista)
20 April	- Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper
21 April	- Good Friday	Prayer service of the Lord's Passion
22 April	- Holy Saturday	Mass of Easter Vigil Latin Church of Da La Salle (Freres)-Jebel Hussain
23 April	- Easter Sunday	Masses of the Lord's Resurrection - In English Jebel Ammen - Latin Church Jebel Lweibdeh Swafikh Jebel Hussain



Kobe residents wait in line to receive water after the earthquake that led to severe public criticism of the government for its handling of the crisis (AFP photo)

As Kobe rises from devastation, Japan ponders the aftershocks

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

KOBE, Japan — The pounding of jack hammers and wrecking balls are a constant backdrop, not the wail of sirens. Free lunches are no longer given out at the headquarters of local gangsters, who have returned to their usual endeavours.

Three months after suffering Japan's worst earthquake in more than 70 years, Kobe remains a city of devastation. But among the flattened buildings and twisted concrete, this once scenic port also presents a lesson in survival.

To those who were here when Kobe lay crushed and burning Jan. 17 — with more than 5,500 people dead and \$12 billion in physical damage — the speed and extent of the recovery already made is striking.

But there have been many surprises as well. One of the most ominous was discovering the vulnerability of structures on reclaimed land, which is widely used in coastal cities of this crowded nation. On the national level, the government has proven less able to deal quickly with major emergencies than many Japanese hoped.

In the centre of it all, however, the mood is one of determination.

After round-the-clock efforts, the bullet trains once again pass through Kobe linking Japan east and west, and the maddening traffic jams that halted even ambulances after the quake are gone.

Thousands who sat outside shattered homes bewildered and dishevelled now rush to work every morning, their suits and dresses clean and neat. Children are back in their school uniforms, books in hand.

At city hall there is a growing sense of optimism, a feeling that the real recovery question isn't whether, but when.

"We hope to have all the basics, the infrastructure, completely restored in another two years," said Koichi Yokoyama, an official at the Earthquake Damage Recovery Department whose office overlooks Kobe's still idle port.

Of course, for thousands of families, life will never be the same.

The quake forced more than 250,000 people to seek emergency shelter in school gyms, community centres and tents on river banks. About 40,000, like Haruyuki Matsuoka, re-

main there.

Unlike most of the people who returned home once water and heating were restored, Mr. Matsuoka has no home to return to. His business, a public bath, was also destroyed.

"I still haven't got the foggiest idea what I'm going to do," he said, sitting alongside his wife and three small children in a park with hundreds of other homeless eating a soupy lunch provided by the government.

Kobe has erected 40,000 temporary homes and appropriated tens of thousands of existing, but unused, housing units. City hall hopes to find more housing for the remaining refugees by summer.

Finding them jobs is another matter.

"It's difficult," said Mr. Yokoyama. "But we believe that the faster we can get the infrastructure back, the faster businesses will be able to start up again, and thus start generating jobs."

Because the Japanese archipelago straddles three tectonic plates and is one of the world's most earthquake-prone regions, the psychological jolt from Kobe is still being felt nationwide.

The quake forced more than 250,000 people to seek emergency shelter in school gyms, community centres and tents on river banks. About 40,000, like Haruyuki Matsuoka, re-

cised for failing to slow its rise. Some political analysts believe that barring a dramatic improvement, he could be out of a job as early as this summer.

The view that politics generally is not working properly, that it is incapable of making quick decisions, has quickly spread," said Kenzo Uchida, a well-known political commentator.

Concerns over a perceived lack of political leadership have deepened the general anxiety.

Slammed for his administration's poorly coordinated handling of the Kobe emergency in its early stages, Prime Minister Tomio Murayama has ordered reviews of contingency plans for everything from quickly ordering up emergency rescue teams to procuring recovery funds.

In the meantime, new problems have appeared.

Although economists had predicted rebuilding Kobe would give Japan's still sluggish economy a boost, they now say the recent rise of the yen to a record high against the U.S. dollar could offset the quake-recovery impetus.

The stronger yen eats into the profits of Japanese exporters, and Mr. Murayama has been criti-

"Most of the damage in newer bridges built since a 1980 revision of construction standards was relatively light," said Yasuhiro Iwasaki, a road and bridge specialist at the construction ministry.

The collapsed stretch of raised highway — where Kobe's first deaths were confirmed — was built under the old rules, and will take years to rebuild.

Engineers were probably most surprised by the extent of liquefaction, which is the sudden mixing of underground water with soil to create a sort of quicksand.

Buildings in Japan are made to standards that assume liquefaction occurs only a few metres below the surface, said Koichi Nakamura, a geologist at Osaka City College. But he and his colleagues found liquefaction as deep as 10 metres on reclaimed land in Kobe.

Mr. Nakamura noted that Tokyo's waterfront is lined with chemical plants, oil refineries, factories and densely populated neighbourhoods that rest on similar ground.

Associated Press reporters Seih Sutel, Braven Smillie and Peter Landers contributed to this story.

Rabin: PNA under threat

(Continued from page 1) the talks on elections during this session," he said.

That would leave the questions of transfer of power and the size and scope of an autonomy assembly to settle, as well as the redeployment of Israeli forces outside Palestinian towns.

But Dr. Erakat underlined that no separate agreement would be signed on the elections.

A new agreement will cover all the above aspects to complete the second phase of autonomy as under the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy, he said.

Islamic Jihad warned the PNA to stop arresting and jailing Muslim fundamentalists and threatened more attacks on Israel.

The PNA has released dozens more of the suspected militants it detained after the recent suicide bombings, a Palestinian official said.

"We released 60 to 70 in the last several days because nothing was proved against them and we found them innocent," prosecutor general Khalid Al Kidra told Reuters.

Israel formally opposes the principle of Palestinian statehood, although several members of Mr. Rabin's centrist coalition have publicly endorsed the idea.

Mr. Abu Rdeineh said in a statement that the state envisaged by the PLO "includes the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including (Arab East) Jerusalem."

Vietnam not leaving the mind of America

By Robert Kearns
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The bittersweet tributes to the fallen Vietnam warriors are collected just after sunrise, before the crowds arrive to stand before "the vast black wall of broken lives," the Vietnam veterans memorial.

Left on the walk before the stark three metre by 75-metre polished black granite walls are cans of unopened beer, a rag doll, full bottles of Jack Daniels and Martell's cognac, packs of Marlboros, a party dress, Little League baseball caps, children's photographs, wedding rings, medals, battle ribbons, scrawled notes from old friends and children, and flowers left by visitors.

He leaves them undisturbed until they are packed away.

Two million six hundred thousand Americans went to Southeast Asia for the war and 58,132 never came home.

Toasts never drunk, cigarettes never smoked, children and grandchildren seen.

The mementos are carted to a nearby building at the Smithsonian Institution where the National Park Service catalogues and preserves them, even the

flowers are dried in books.

To discard them would de-

mean the mostly anonymous givers, they say.

A small portion is on display

at the Museum of Ameri-

cian History.

"Say you had a buddy

and you promised to meet

him when it was over and

he never made it," Jerry Hanna, who works

for the park service at the

wall, said of the unopened

bottles and cans he often

finds when he arrives in the

morning.

He leaves them undis-

tributed until they are packed

away.

Two million six hundred

thousand Americans

went to Southeast Asia for

the war and 58,132 never

came home.

Toasts never drunk,

cigarettes never smoked,

children and grandchildren seen.

The mementos are carted

to a nearby building at the

Smithsonian Institution

where the National Park

Service catalogues and pre-

serves them, even the

tion continues to expand in exponential proportions," says University of Alabama professor Philip Beidler who studies the war and its cultural fallout.

For two decades, there has been a steady flow of films, books, music, television shows and even a musical, "Miss Saigon," the story of a 17-year-old Vietnamese woman who falls in love with an American, in its fourth year on Broadway and a road version is making a national tour.

A week before the Saigon pullout in 1975, President Gerald Ford warned the nation against dwelling on the war.

Speaking at Tulane University in New Orleans, Mr. Ford said: "Today, Americans can regain the sense of pride that existed before Vietnam. But it cannot be achieved by refighting a war that is finished."

But for the nearly two million people who visit the wall each year to remember those who died, the war will never end.

"American preoccupa-

World Bank calls on developing states to leap into world economy

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Leaders of developing countries can raise living standards in their struggling nations by opening markets and seeking to join the world economy, the World Bank said in a report Tuesday.

But letting poorer countries into the club of the wealthier presents short-term challenges to industrial nations whose labour forces will be inevitably affected by the change, the report said.

"There is no doubt that greater integration can be a win-win outcome. Protectionist pressures to slow or reverse integration must be resisted, or both industrial and developing countries will lose," said Masood Ahmad, the World Bank's director of international economics.

The international financial institution said the collapse of trade barriers increased options for individuals and firms but narrowed them for governments as the recent crisis in Mexico has shown.

"It is more important than ever that government everywhere maintain sound macroeconomic policies," the report said.

Leaders of developing countries can raise living standards in their struggling nations by opening markets and seeking to join the world economy, the World Bank said in a report Tuesday.

The report titled "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries" predicted rapid growth in the world market as globalisation takes hold.

World trade will continue to be a major engine of growth over the next 10 years with world merchandise trade expected to grow by more than six per cent a year, faster than any time since the 1960s.

With help from liberal policies in developing countries, annual growth in the next 10 years could outpace industrial countries, reaching 4.9 per cent compared to a projected 2.8 per cent in wealthier nations, the report said.

Industrial countries can also hope to widen their access to developing markets which accounted for one-fifth of the wealthier nations' exports in the late 1980s.

The share has grown to one-quarter and "could

account for well over one-third toward the end of the decade," the report said.

Industrial countries can also increase their exports in the service sector and portfolio investment in emerging markets provide an outlet for higher returns for the savings of their aging population.

The World Bank emphasised that the economic performances of developing countries differ widely with growth predictions for East Asia still strong at 7.7 per cent for the 1995 to 2004 period, compared to eight per cent in 1991-1994.

Regional growth was expected to ease due to a cooling-off of the Chinese economy and the slowing of capital inflows. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was expected to rise to 6.5 per cent from 6.4 per cent.

World Bank analysts predicted strong growth in South Asia at 5.4 per cent in 1995-2004, compared to five per cent in the past decade. GDP per capita growth was expected to reach 3.6 per cent

in the next 10 years, up from 2.8 per cent in the previous decade.

But analysts warned that south Asia would only fare well if governments continued to promote open-trade policies and encourage the private sector.

Latin America and the Caribbean should register a 3.5 per cent growth rate in 1995-2004 compared to 2.4 per cent in the previous decade.

GDP per capita growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was expected to reach 1.9 per cent, up from 0.3 per cent with significant disparity in economies throughout the region.

Economic performance in Europe and Central Asia was expected to grow with the GDP expected to register 3.4 per cent in 1995-2004 from its past recession years during which the GDP was at 2.5 per cent.

In the Middle East and North Africa, economic growth was estimated at 3.5 per cent from 0.9 per cent in the past decade.

Transport Minister Sibuku Kamci told the cabinet he was unhappy with the lack of

Japan urges U.S. to do more to defend dollar

TOKYO (R) — Japanese leaders, frustrated with Washington's reaction to their emergency economic package, urged the United States Tuesday to take responsibility for the dollar's latest fall against the yen.

"The U.S. should take responsibility for the fall of the dollar against the yen as it is the country with the key currency status," home affairs minister Hiromu Nonaka was quoted as telling a cabinet ministers' meeting.

The remarks followed a renewed drop of the dollar in Tokyo Tuesday after Finance Minister Masayoshi Takekuma failed to win favourable comments on the package, unveiled last Friday, from U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

The dollar fell to about 81.50 yen in late Tokyo trading on Tuesday compared with about 83.55 yen last Friday.

Mr. Rubin, who met Mr. Takekuma Sunday during a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Indonesia, said in

New Delhi during a visit to India that he was reserving final judgment on the package.

Mr. Rubin said it would be premature to judge the package until he saw the specifics.

Japan is expected to work out details of economic measures in the package over the next few months.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Shiro Oide told the same cabinet meeting he was dissatisfied with the U.S. reaction to the package.

The remarks followed a news conference he would welcome some countries joining together to urge the U.S. to make further efforts to defend the sagging dollar.

He was responding to a question about whether Japan and Europe would jointly call on the United States to step up its defence of the dollar at a meeting of the Group of Seven major nations next week in Washington.

Transport Minister Sibuku Kamci told the cabinet he was unhappy with the lack of

U.S. efforts to support the dollar. Japan wants the U.S. to try harder to cut its budget deficit, which it says is a major factor in the dollar's weakness.

Government officials told Reuters that one of the major items in the package would be a large supplementary budget for fiscal 1995, which began on April 1.

The supplementary budget may top two trillion yen (\$24.6 billion) compared with two extra budgets in fiscal 1994 totalling 1.7 trillion yen (\$20.9 billion), they said.

Construction Minister Koken Nonaka told reporters that the extra budget needs to be substantially higher than the 2.1 trillion yen (\$25.9 billion) reported in the daily Yomiuri Shimbun Tuesday.

It should be large enough to bring about a real increase in domestic demand, Mr. Nonaka said.

Last week, Economic Planning Agency Minister Massabiko Komura said that if necessary Japan would draw up a second supplementary budget for fiscal 1995.

Dollar drifts lower as outlook remains grim

LONDON (R) — The dollar resumed its downward drift against the yen Tuesday, undermining Europe's leading share markets and helping gold to rise to its highest level for more than six months.

Economists said the dollar was likely to set fresh lows against the yen within the next few days.

"The overall picture for the dollar is very weak," said Tony Norfield, treasury economist at ABN Amro.

At 1100 GMT the dollar was at \$1.30 yen and 1.3640 marks compared with \$1.33 and 1.3894 in late trading Thursday.

The lack of enthusiasm for Japan's economic package announced Friday along with a 75 basis points cut in the official discount rate to one per cent sparked early selling which took the dollar below crucial support at \$1.30 yen.

After a steady start versus the mark from overnight levels the dollar also fell again against the mark, undermined by its feeble performance in the wake of the German rate cut late last month.

"There seems to be next to nothing on the horizon near-term to change the dollar's fortunes," said a dealer at a German bank in London. "What can you expect if, after rate cuts in Germany and in Japan, it still looks as sick as it is now?"

Europe's share markets took their lead from the dollar's weakness and moved into the red in generally thin and cautious trading.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A private worry can upset you in the morning, but tonight you can be with charming persons and be happy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take no risks where money matters are concerned today. Then later tonight you can get out to new sites with those who are charming.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) In the morning, you could have an argument with your mate if you go out for pleasure so be together for fun tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't involve yourself in some disagreement between a family tie and an outsider and go after some benefits which are coming.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't leave your tasks for some outside affair in the morning, or you could lose a good deal. Later you will be happy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Wait until tonight to have a good time and come to far better terms with partners during today for a greater success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle that situation at home on a better day than today, but later tonight get your environment in far better order.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This morning is fine for working away at duties you have assumed and later you can enjoy recreational activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your mind is pretty much on home and family this morning. Have guests into your home tonight and have a wonderful time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use tact in dealing with partners this morning, but later tonight you can have better understanding due to planetary positions.

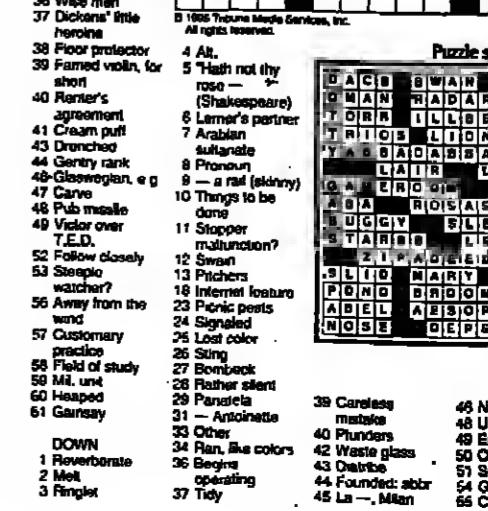
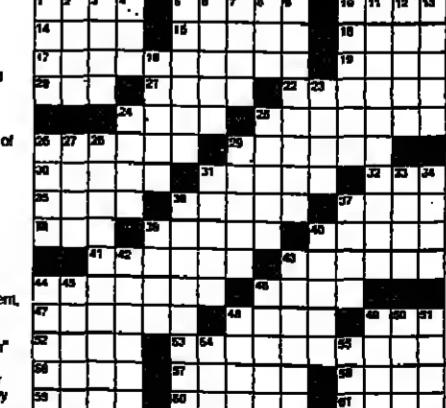
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Refrain from making changes in investments this morning, but tonight you know what is best to do about them.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Restrictive conditions are present this morning, but tonight you can make better plans for the future.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

THE Daily Crossword

by Matthew Higgins



Answers to the crossword puzzle:

- 1. Engrave
- 5. Satisfaction
- 6. Ode
- 10. Component
- 14. Echo sound
- 15. Weighty
- 16. Increase
- 17. The essence of
- 18. "I'm sorry."
- 19. Charming
- 20. Hooper
- 21. Cut, like hay
- 22. Crave
- 23. Concern
- 24. — keepers, losers...
- 25. Spangle
- 26. Homeless student, briefly
- 30. Pitiful
- 31. "Golden touch"
- 32. C.S.A. soldier
- 35. Surrounded by
- 36. Free men
- 37. Daring little heroine
- 38. Poor protector
- 39. Famed violin, for example
- 40. Planter's agreement
- 41. Cream puff
- 42. Gassy
- 43. Gassy
- 44. Gassy
- 45. Gassy
- 46. Vector over T.E.D.
- 47. Follow closely
- 48. Smart
- 49. Snitching
- 50. Away from the trend
- 51. Contemporary practice
- 52. Field of study
- 53. Up, up
- 54. Headache
- 55. Gamay
- 56. Brontock
- 57. Rather silent
- 58. Parrot
- 59. Antiphite
- 60. Other
- 61. Elope
- 62. Rave
- 63. Rave
- 64. Found out; abr.
- 65. La —, Milan
- 66. Carries
- 67. Plush
- 68. Waste glass
- 69. Cleared
- 70. Drabber
- 71. Slave's need
- 72. Greek letter
- 73. Cushion

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

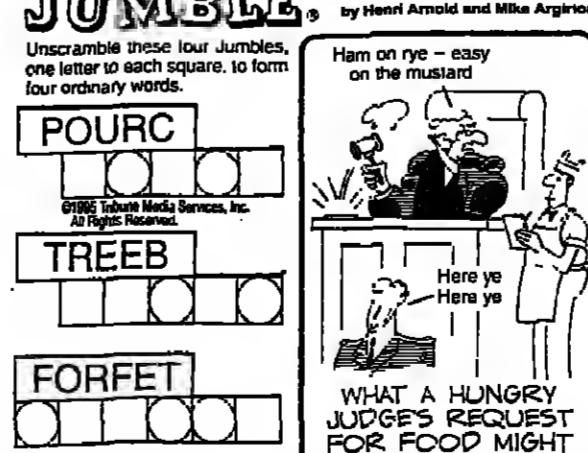
By Glasberger



"Point the VCR controller at my brain. See if you can erase everything that happened today between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: " IN THE " (Answers tomorrow)

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABBOT ELOPE RAVAGE JURIST

Answer: What a customer can do in a shoe repair shop — BARE HIS SOLE

EDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1995
 Dollar drifts lower as outlook remains grim

Business & Finance

Business Daily Cheat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Israeli firm applies to invest at eastern shore of Dead Sea

AFTER POSTING a loss in 1993, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) returned to profitability by recording a pre-tax profit of JD 2.3 million in 1994. According to the annual report, JPMC increased its exports by seven per cent to 3.83 million tonnes last year and succeeded in penetrating markets in Germany, Belgium and Brazil. The company also boosted its exports to India by one million tonnes. In addition, JPMC was able to post a 700,000-tonne record exports of phosphatic fertilizers in 1994 especially after completing the modernisation of the phosphate acid plant.

The board of directors complained of the high mining fees that the government continues to impose on the company and of the high charges for transporting phosphate by trucks due to the axial load regulation. The board also indicated in the annual report that prices were high for raw material inputs imported to manufacture phosphate fertilizer.

THE MINISTRY of Supply has started supplying long-seed rice to be sold at the subsidised price of 170 fils per kilogramme. The non-subsidised price is 380 fils per kilogramme. Jordanians consume 6,500 tonnes of rice a month (Al Dostour).

THE JORDAN Sulpho Chemicals Company suffered a JD 310,000 loss last year compared to a JD 130,000 net profit in 1993. The company attributed the loss to lower sales to Yemen and Iraq and high interest rates. The annual report showed total assets increasing to JD 10.2 million from JD 8.13 million in 1993 and current liabilities going up from JD 3.09 million to JD 4.78 million in 1994. Shareholders' equity declined last year to JD 4.71 million from JD 5.02 in 1993 (Al Ra'i).

THE BOARD of directors of the Arab Aluminium Industry (ARAL) is recommending JD 2.4 million in dividends at a rate of 50 per cent in 1995 although the net profit in that year was JD 5.78 million compared to JD 5.86 million in 1994. According to the annual report, ARAL's total assets increased to JD 17.47 million in 1994 (JD 15.81 million in 1993) and shareholders' equity went up to JD 10.4 million from JD 9.0 million in 1993. The company's sales amounted to JD 17.13 million last year despite not being able to export to Iraq, one of ARAL's traditional markets (Al Ra'i).

THE BOARD of directors of the Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company is recommending to the general assembly raising the capital to JD 5 million. The capital increase is to finance the renovation costs of the Jordan Inter. Continental Hotel owned by the company. According to the annual report, the last four months of 1994 witnessed higher activity which reflected on the hotel's operations for the whole year. Occupancy rate from January until August 1994 was 49.6 per cent, but by the end of the year the rate went up to 56.2 per cent. The company boosted operational earnings last year by JD 682,000 (11 per cent) to JD 8.63 million with operational costs increasing by only 7.3 per cent. The company posted JD 1.74 million in net profits in 1994 compared to JD 1.31 million in 1993. Assets at the end of last year stood at JD 13.61 million while shareholders' equity stood at JD 6.81 million. Inter. Continental International, which manages the hotel, received JD 669,000 in administration fees (Al Aswaq).

Jordan ready to offer attractive terms to foreign oil companies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is ready to offer attractive terms to foreign companies interested in exploring for oil in the Kingdom and several firms are studying the possibilities of taking up the Jordanian offer, according to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazeh.

"We are trying to make the offers more palatable, more acceptable" to international oil companies interested in Jordan, the minister said in a recent interview.

Jordan is offering production sharing agreements — meaning that the companies could come in with their own funds and start exploration in designated areas under specific contracts and if and when they find out of commercial quantities the government and the concerned company would share the output of the find.

The share of the successful company will depend on the quantity of oil found, said Mr. Darwazeh. "If the quantity is low, then their share will be high, to cover their expenses... profits... (and) if the quantity is high then their share will be little bit less."

International oil companies "have started looking at the information that we have provided," he said. "They evaluate the informa-

tion, go back and make the decision to whether to come to Jordan..."

In nearly a decade of exploration work, no company has been able to locate oil in commercial quantities in Jordan. But oil industry sources and Jordanian officials believe that there is oil in the Kingdom and it is only a matter of locating it.

Optimists point out that Jordan neighbours oil giants Saudi Arabia and Iraq as well as Syria, which is emerging as a sizeable producer of oil and gas, and say that geology dictates that Jordan should have commercial quantities of hydrocarbons.

The U.S. Hunt Oil Company, the American oil company, and Belgium's Petrofina were among international firms which came to Jordan after hopes were raised in mid-80s when oil deposits were discovered in the northeast, near the border with Iraq. But then it was found that the deposits were very limited. At the height of production, the wells yielded up to 600 barrels per day, but now the output there is insignificant.

Mr. Darwazeh noted that "at least 12 companies dug more than 100 wells" in various parts of Jordan under different agreements, but none of the finds was commercially promising.

A Korean company is currently exploring some areas



Samih Darwazeh

of Jordan while Natural Resources Authority (NRA) is conducting limited exploration work in other areas.

Mr. Darwazeh said there were "good signs" near the Dead Sea as well as areas near the border with Syria but the government was not in a position to invest in oil exploration.

Quite simply, the government does not have the capability to do it," said the minister, noting that a new state-owned company with a capital of JD 20 million was being set up to take charge of oil and gas exploration.

The company, expected to take off in July, could make joint ventures with foreign companies with a view to making up for the shortfall in investments as well as equipment and technology, noted the minister.

Mr. Darwazeh conceded that locating oil of commercial quantities in Jordan was proving to be a difficult task. "We seem to have so many (seismological) splits that have changed the geology of the area."

Notwithstanding the dis-

appointing results so far, he noted, the fact that small quantities of oil found in different spots clearly indicate that there is oil in Jordan.

"There are very good signs that there is oil in the Dead Sea," he said. "But I think most companies are hesitating to dig or do exploration work there because studies show that there is a huge layer of salt before reaching oil."

"It will be costly in terms of the technologies available today," he said. "We hope there will be a company with the right technology that could be used in an economic way to dig through the salt."

In some spots, it was found that oil lies under 3,000 metres of salt, he added.

Jordan needs about 60,000 barrels of crude oil and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil every day. Iraq, whose oil exports are blocked under U.N. sanctions, supplies the needs trucked overland to the Kingdom under an exemption granted by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Jordan and Iraq are currently studying building a pipeline to pump Iraqi oil to the Zarqa refinery.

The first part of the pipeline will be about 600 kilometres in length; at a later stage, when Jordan builds another refinery at Aqaba, the pipeline will be extended by 350 kilometres to the Red Sea port.

The cost of the entire pipeline — which will have a daily pumping capacity of 250,000 barrels of oil — was estimated at \$1.4 billion; an estimate for the first part of the pipeline — to carry 100,000 barrels of oil from Haditha in Iraq to Zarqa — was not available immediately.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - SWISSIMAI					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 16/04/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
ARAB BANK P/C	700	134750	103,000	103,500	+0.50
BANK OF JORDAN	2050	7803	3,820	3,850	+0.30
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	15300	24124	1,580	1,580	0.00
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	5050	14445	2,870	2,880	+0.05
THE HOUSING BANK	60000	480362	7,900	8,000	+100
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	7519	22158	2,920	2,950	+30
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL BANK	4665	6971	1,060	1,080	+20
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	115420	490531	4,060	4,080	+20
BUSINESS BANK	1400	5172	3,630	3,700	+70
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1650	7229	4,360	4,380	+20
BEIT ELHALI SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2680	8939	5,310	5,400	+90
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	174387	241544	1,370	1,380	+10
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1000	4063	4,080	4,100	+20
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	406983	826560	5,040	5,190	+150
	844734	2336892	INDEX NUMBER: 169.44	CHANGE: +0.07	
BANKS SECTOR					
ARABIAN SEA INSURANCE	14670	26071	1,850	1,850	0.00
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	48450	137010	2,750	2,830	+80
DELTA INSURANCE	10000	24000	2,500	2,540	+40
	73120	137061	INDEX NUMBER: 120.63	CHANGE: +0.41	
INSURANCE SECTOR					
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5134	8500	1,180	1,180	0.00
JORDANIAN PETROLEUM /NEW	4000	5290	1,570	1,570	0.00
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	533496	1841171	1,100	1,100	0.00
IMBIO DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1027	1327	1,220	1,220	0.00
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	650	4488	1,000	1,000	0.00
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	3000	9875	3,260	3,260	0.00
JOSEPH AL KHOURY GROUP OF COMPANIES	4000	10025	1,000	1,000	0.00
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	150	173	1,130	1,130	0.00
MACHINERY EQUIP., RENTING & MAINTENANCE	2000	1320	1,660	1,660	0.00
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	30208	81854	2,700	2,700	0.00
ARAB CENTER FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	6687	22405	3,360	3,360	0.00
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	750	960	1,260	1,260	0.00
	591182	3988399	INDEX NUMBER: 141.66	CHANGE: -0.71	
SERVICES SECTOR					
ATTACHEE CONVEYOR & MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2050	2358	1,140	1,150	+10
TRAVEL & TOURIST COMPANIES	3847	11895	1,620	1,620	0.00
JORDAN PHOSPHATE/NEW	2040	5442	2,620	2,700	+80
JORDAN POTASH/NEW	400	2190	5,250	5,200	-50
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9760	91747	9,380	9,400	+20
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	58	209	3,610	3,610	0.00
THE JORDAN HORSESHOE MILLS	210	200	8,100	8,100	0.00
ARAB SPINNING & WEAVING	5746	16137	4,140	4,160	+20
SPINNING & WEAVING	8850	23005	2,630	2,650	+20
RATFA INDUSTRIES	6250	15695	2,500	2,510	+10
DAR AL QAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3350	26638	7,950	7,950	0.00
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	52200	481110	1,950	1,950	0.00
ARABIC INDUSTRIES	500	325	7,100	7,100	0.00
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	62900	43412	1,680	1,700	+20
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	113000	213064	1,600	1,620	+20
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2250	7093	3,100	3,150	+50
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	39850	120676	2,890	3,030	+140
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	1850	2223	1,190	1,200	+10
UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN INDUSTRIES	200	540	4,100	4,100	0.00
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/IMCO	700	483	590	590	0.00
SWEDISH CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	200	954	4,770	4,770	0.00
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	6400	11790	1,760	1,760	0.00
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	3450	9244	2,370	2,370	0.00
UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN	500	851	1,650	1,650	0.00
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	4050	1463	1,150	1,150	0.00
	7950	15846	2,000	2,000	0.00

AC Milan favoured to gain Champions Cup final again

PARIS (AFP) — AC Milan look set to complete an amazing turnaround and make their third successive European Cup final following Wednesday's semi-final against Paris Saint Germain.

In November, they only just qualified for the European Cup quarter-finals. They then lost to Argentina's Velez Sarsfield in the Intercontinental Cup and were beaten in the Italian Cup — apart from poor form in the league.

But Zvonimir Boban's 89th minute goal for a 1-0 win against PSG in the first leg gives an optimistic hue to Milan's end of season.

In other competitions, Parma host Bayer Leverkusen with a 2-1 lead and Borussia Dortmund entertain Juventus with the match poised at 2-2 in Tuesday's UEFA Cup semi-finals.

Arsenal travel to Sampdoria with a 3-2 lead in their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final on Thursday, Real Zaragoza travel to Chelsea with a 3-0 advantage the same night.

PSG are helped by the suspension of Alessandro Costacurta, who fouled David Ginola with a quarter-hour to go in Paris, for the San Siro leg.

But Costacurta's omission in crucial ties has not always been a major handicap for club and country.

He missed last season's 4-0 final win over Barcelona and the World Cup final — where Italy only lost to Brazil on penalties.

On statistics, PSG have a mission impossible in Milan

as they try to overturn the 1-0 deficit and make the May 24 final in Vienna.

And Ajax coach Luis Van Gaal said: "In our camp nobody is worried. I am convinced we will reach the final."

For Ajax, Frank de Boer is suspended. But Munich have a much more serious selection problem.

Hansi Flingler, who is 36, retired from football and works in Bayern's souvenir shop, has been called up into the squad because of Giovanni Trapattoni's dilemma. He could even take charge of the defence.

The majority of Bayern's star players are on the injury list — Lothar Matthaus, Oliver Kahn, Jean-Pierre Papin, Marcel Witeczek, Emir Kostadinov, and skipper Thomas Helmer.

In Thursday's Cup Winners' Cup, holders Arsenal still have a chance to become the first side to retain the trophy.

They visit Sampdoria with a 3-2 lead, but should the Londoners eventually lose, they could blame sublime skill from Roberto Mancini.

Mancini's superb backheel to wrongfoot the Arsenal defence set up Serb Vladimir Jugovic for a late goal in the first leg. That move may prove for Sampdoria in obtaining their ticket to the May 10 final in Paris.

Jugovic was a key player in the great Redstar Belgrade side until civil war broke up Yugoslavia.

Ndeti wins 3rd straight Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AFP) — Kenya's Cosmas Ndeti won his third straight Boston Marathon here Monday, joining U.S. runners Bill Rodgers and Clarence DeMar as the only men to capture the event three times in a row.

Ndeti's unofficial time Monday was two hours, nine minutes and 22 seconds — 2:06 slower than the course record he set last year.

"I was strong," Ndeti said. "The Lord was always renewing my strength."

Fellow Kenyan Moses Tanui was second, 60 seconds behind the winner, in only his third marathon race. Tanui, 29, was 10th in both prior

efforts, including here last year and the 1993 New York Marathon. Brazil's Luiz Antonio Dos Santos was third.

Germany's Uta Pippig won her second straight Boston women's crown in an unofficial time of 2:25:11, making this the first time men and women have defended titles here.

"It was such a great race," Pippig said. "It was a little bit warm. It was nice. I had a little blister on my feet. But that's the marathon's problem sometimes."

Pippig took the early lead and stayed in front to capture the women's title. South

Africa's Elena Mayer was second.

Pippig was well off the course record of 2:21:45 she set last year. Pippig also won her second straight Kyoto Marathon earlier this year.

Ndeti, 25, joins Bill Rodgers, who won here from 1978-1980, and Clarence DeMar, who took a record seven Boston titles including a sweep from 1922-1924.

Ndeti won the 1993 race, in only his second marathon outing ever, in 2:09:33 before setting the standard last year.

Ndeti had struggled through recent races developing a blister and failing to finish last October's Chicago Marathon and running slow last month in a half-marathon in Portugal.

Ndeti and his wife named their son Gideon Boston after his triumph here. The boy was born two days before Ndeti's first triumph here. A visa mixup prevented Gideon from attending this year's race, where a second birthday party had been planned Monday. So he remained home in Kenya with his mother and baby sister.

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Graf improves her grip on No. 1

MIAMI (Agencies) — Steffi Graf improved her hold on the world number one ranking, improving her lead to more than 20 points in the latest WTA Tour rankings release here Monday.

The German star remained unbeaten this year and won her fourth tour title of 1995 by beating Asa Carlsson of Sweden on Sunday in the final at Houston.

The victory improved Graf's points average to 319.07 compared to 296.72 for idle Arantxa Sanchez of Spain.

U.S. veteran Amy Frazier made the only rise among the top 20 player, jumping two places to 16th after beating eighth-ranked Kimiko Date in the Japan Open finals.

1. Steffi Graf 319.07 pts

2. Arantxa Sanchez 296.72

3. Mary Pierce 235.36

4. Conchita Martinez 203.75

5. Jana Novotna 174.97

6. Lindsay Davenport 146.77

7. Gabriela Sabatini 134.66

8. Kristie Date 122.49

9. Magdalena Maleeva 121.17

10. Natasha Zvereva 104.41

11. Anna Huber 103.43

12. Mary Joe Fernandes 94.62

13. Ivonne Majoli 83.66

14. Brenda Schultz 81.47

15. Noelia Savenkovs 79.88

16. Amy Frazier 74.95

17. Lori McNeil 68.36

18. Julie Halard 67.13

19. Amanda Coetzer 63.02

20. Helena Sukova 59.58

Agassi fined after late withdrawal

In Hong Kong, world No. 1 Andre Agassi was fined \$5,000 by the ATP tour on Monday after his late withdrawal from Hong Kong Open tournament with a back injury.

The American's absence leaves defending champion Michael Chang as the top seed and the Chinese-American begins his defence with a first round encounter with Switzerland's Jacob Hlasek on Tuesday.

American Jim Courier, who defeated Agassi to win the Japan Open on Sunday, meets Yoon Yong-II of South Korea in his first round match also on Tuesday.

Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, the highest-ranked seed in action on the first day on Monday, strolled into the second round with a 6-1 6-1 win over Luis Herrera of Mexico.

The fourth-seeded Enqvist, whose tournament victories in Auckland and Philadelphia this year have seen him rise to 20 in the world rankings, proved far too powerful for the Mexican qualifier.



American IBF heavyweight champion George Foreman (right) faces a sparring partner during a boxing training in Las Vegas. Foreman will fight German challenger Axel Schultz for the world champion title on April 22 (AFP photo)

Orlando claim Atlantic Division title

ORLANDO (AP) — Orlando claimed the Atlantic Division title as well as the top seeding in the Eastern Conference playoffs with a 111-100 victory over Washington on Monday night.

Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points, 12 rebounds and four blocked shots as the Magic survived a fourth-quarter rally to improve to 38-2 at Orlando arena and assure itself the homecourt advantage through the conference finals.

The victory was only the second in the last six games for Orlando as it had lost 14 of its last 18 road games, including five straight.

The Bullets, who beat Milwaukee to snap a 13-game losing streak Saturday, lost for the 14th time in 15 games.

Chris Webber, Juwan Howard and Gheorghe Muresan each had 21 points and Doug Overton finished with 20.

Dennis Scott's 3-pointer in the closing seconds of the

opening quarter started a 17-0 run that enabled the Magic to open a 46-27 lead. Washington trailed 64-44 at halftime and showed no sign of coming back until Orlando missed 10 of its first 11 shots in the fourth quarter.

Hornets 101, 76ers 90: In Philadelphia, Greg Sutton scored 16 points and Larry Johnson had all of his 15 points in the second half as Charlotte Hornets moved within one game of Indiana in the race for first place in the central division.

The victory was only the second in the last six games for Orlando as it had lost 14 of its last 18 road games, including five straight.

Sutton, making his second start of the season in place of the injured Muggsy Bogues

(straight hamstring), had a career-high seven assists, while Darrin Hancock had 15 points, also a career-high, for Charlotte.

Sharon Wright had 22 points and Shawn Bradley 18 to lead Philadelphia.

Charlotte led 89-82 with 5:33 to play, then scored seven straight points to lead 96-82 on a driving layup by Sutton with 3:17 remaining.

Philadelphia never got closer than 11 the rest of the way.

Bucks 99, Knicks 93: In New York, Vin Baker scored 10 straight fourth-quarter points and finished with 28 and 13 rebounds as the Bucks kept

RESULTS

Boston	98	New Jersey	96
Chicago	98	Miami	93
Milwaukee	99	New York	93
Orlando	111	Washington	100
Charlotte	101	Philadelphia	90
Houston	121	La Clippers	111
Portland	97	Seattle	93

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHMIM HIRSCH
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FINESSES TO THE RIGHT, TO THE LEFT

Neither vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH ♠ A ♡ Q ♢ A ♣ 10 7 3

WEST ♠ K ♡ 9 8 5 3

EAST ♠ Q 10 9 5 ♦ 7 6 2 ♦ Q 8 7 4 2 ♦ 9 6 2 ♦ Q 8 5 4

SOUTH ♠ 7 ♣ 6 5 ♦ K 6 5 ♦ K 6 4 2 ♦ K 6 2

The bidding: South West North East

Pass Pass 1♦ Dbl

1♦ Pass 1♦ Pass

2♦ Pass 3♦ Pass

3♦ Pass 4♦ Pass

5♦ Pass 6♦ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

The trouble with playing a lot of converses is that you like to trust them out on the faintest excuse, often on hands that are not quite suitable. Here is an example of how an ill-judged decision can backfire.

North-South were playing the Precision system, where an opening bid of one club is artificial and shows 17 points or more with any distribution. East-South showed the major suits, an intervention that

West led the jack of spades and, with nothing to serve as a guide, declarer might well have taken every finesse in sight, with disastrous results.

Westerd held all the major suits, declarer cashed with the ace of spades, led a heart to the jack and cashed the king of hearts.

Just in case West held the king of diamonds and would cover, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds. When West followed low, dummy's ace was played, a spade was discarded on the ace of hearts and the queen of spades was ruffed to the deuce. After accepting a trick to the king of diamonds, declarer was forced to try the club finesse for the 13th trick. But since West was known to hold the club length, declarer was not too surprised when that succeeded.

Celtics 98, Nets 96: In Boston, Dee Brown scored 18 points and five other Celtics finished in double figures as the Celtics won for the eighth time in nine games.

The Celtics, who were held scoreless over the game's final 2:46, can clinch the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff berth with a win or Milwaukee loss.

Dino Radja added 16 points for Boston, while DeRome strong had 14. Dominique Wilkins and Sherman Douglas 13 each and Greg

Armon Gilliam paced New Jersey with 25 points and 14 rebounds. P.J. Brown scored 9 points and grabbed 17 rebounds and Kenny Anderson added 19 points.

Rockets 121, Clippers 111: In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 30 points and didn't miss a field goal until the fourth quarter, finishing 14

Amman Soccer Championship Sahab take on Wihdat today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's 1994 champions Al Wihdat Wednesday play Sahab in the last match of the preliminary round in the inaugural Amman Soccer Championship which groups eight Premier League teams from the capital and its vicinity.

Organised by the Greater Amman Municipality as a means to sponsor participating clubs, the competition has drawn a sizeable amount of sponsorship which will be distributed among the eight teams. Pepsi are the main sponsors with JD 15,000.

The competing teams have been divided into two groups, the top two teams of which advance to the semi-final round.

With Group A matches already completed,

Sahab and Russifa advanced, awaiting

match and the winner of the Sahab-Wihdat

match from Group B.

Each top player in each match have received

JD 100 bonus. They are:

Al Zait — Al Faisali

Fawaz Taib — Russifa

Mousa Shteyan — Ahli

Wald Abdul Rahman (twice) — Baqas

Nader Ayyoub — Sahab

Mohammed Badwi — Jazirah

Mohammed Al Zamel — Russifa

Mohammed Al Ashhab — Sahab

Hisham Abdul Munem — Wihdat

Results in the preliminary round came as follows:

Faisali-Baqas 2-0

Russifa-Qadisieh 2-1

Ahli-Jazirah 1-1

Faisali-Qadisieh 2-0

Baqas-Russifa 3-1

Ahli-Sahab 0-0

Jazirah-Wihdat 2-1

Qadisieh-Baqas 3-2

Russifa-Faisali 1-0

Jazirah-Sahab 2-2

Wihdat-Ahli 2-1

STANDINGS

Group A

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	3	2	1	1	4	1	4
Russifa	3	2	1	1	4	4	4
Baqas	3	1	2	2	5	6	2
Qadisieh	3	1	-	2	4	6	2

Group B

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Jazirah	3	1	-	2	5	4	4
Sahab	2	2	-	2	2	2	3
Wihdat	2	1	-	1	3	3	2
Ahli	3	1	2	2	3	2	2

Cameroon look for an action replay

JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

— Cameroon must hope history repeats itself when they visit Zaire for a crucial African Nations' Cup qualifying match at the weekend.

The last time the central African countries clashed in Kiasasha, the Idomitable Lions won a 1994 World Cup preliminary tie 2-1 and went on to reach the finals.

Little has gone right for them since and they are in grave danger of missing the nations' Cup finals for the second consecutive time.

Zimbabwe top group one with eight points, followed by Malawi with six, Zaire with five, Cameroon with four and Lesotho prop up the standings with two.

Cameroon have a match in hand, but may need seven points from their four remaining fixtures — at home to Zimbabwe and Lesotho and away to Zaire and Malawi — to secure one of the two qualifying berths.

It is a tall order for a side that even managed to get beaten in Lesotho, and has lost largely through advancing years, many of the household names that made Cameroon famous.

Zaire have overcome disastrous start to take five points from their last three outings, including a significant 1-0 away win over previously unbeaten Malawi.

Belgian-based Liombe Essende scored the goal, his third of a campaign in which he has overshadowed better known team-mates like Roger Lukaku.

German-coached Zimbabwe may be sitting pretty as they attempt to reach the biennial finals for the first

time, but cannot afford any slip-ups at home to Malawi.

A victory would virtually secure the Warriors a passage to the 16-nation showpiece in neighbouring South Africa, and provide sweet revenge for a 3-1 loss in Malawi last October.

Any other result might trigger panic as Zimbabwe finish their eight-match programme with journeys to Cameroon, where they have never won, and Zaire.

The struggle for group two supremacy looks set for another twist because Senegal host Togo on Saturday, 24 hours before leader Liberia entertain Tunisia.

This time, the Pharaohs will probably settle for a point, which would keep them in the driving seat on

goal difference even if goal-shy Algeria succeed in Sudan.

If they overcome tenacious Togo, the country that occupied bottom place in mid-January will jump above the Libyans into first.

Libera and Tunisia fought a close, goalless draw in north Africa and another close encounter of the defensive kind seems likely between teams boasting unbeaten records.

The situation is less complex in group 3 where Ghana, champions a record four times, can start making travel arrangements for Johannesburg despite losing in Sierra Leone this month.

Who will accompany them

Under him, the Lions scuttled a last-minute equaliser in Liberia and won in Mauritania.

If they overcome tenacious Togo, the country that occupied bottom place in mid-January will jump above the Libyans into first.

Group 6 is tighter with just one point separating Guinea, Mozambique, Angola and Mali, the surprise team of the 1994 finals, where they

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Israel expels 2 Palestinians to Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israel expelled two Palestinians, one of them after 25 years in jail, to South Lebanon but Lebanese troops refused them entry into government-controlled areas. U.N. sources said on Tuesday.

The said Khamis Khodor, 58, and Mohammad Al Joulani, 27, were expelled by Israel on Monday but were barred by Lebanese soldiers at Harma crossing point from entering government territories from Israel's South Lebanon border zone.

The two men, who belong to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah group and hold Jordanian passports, were then put in custody of U.N. peacekeepers in South Lebanon, the sources said.

"They just showed up and said they had been deported by Israel," Timur Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said. "We are just hoping they won't be with us for the next several years."

Mr. Goksel said the Israeli army and the International Committee of the Red Cross had been contacted about the

men. But he said the United Nations had yet to bear back from the Israeli army.

Khodor had been in jail since he was arrested in 1970 in Israel while attempting to set off a bomb, the sources said.

Joulani had been serving a 13-year prison term in Israel since 1985 for taking part in a guerrilla raid from Jordan.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said: "Two Palestinians, citizens of Jordan, who spent a number of years in jail here, were expelled to Lebanon."

Mr. Ben-Ami said he did not know why the two men were deported to Lebanon. He said the Israeli army would issue a statement, but an army spokesman said they had nothing to release yet.

Security sources in Lebanon said Israel first tried to expel the two men to Jordan, but dumped them in South Lebanon after the Amman government refused them entry.

In 1992, after an Israeli policeman was killed by guerrillas, Israel expelled to South Lebanon 415 Palestinians.

Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip whom it accused of being militants.

Lebanon refused them entry and most of the men were stranded in a rugged no-man's land just north of the South Lebanon occupation zone for up to a year before Israel, under international criticism, took them back.

Since then, Israel has expelled several Arabs whom it said entered Palestinian self-rule areas without its authorisation. But no long-term Palestinian residents of the West Bank or Gaza Strip nor prisoners had been expelled.

Khodor and Joulani were driven in an Israeli army jeep to the Hamra crossing, near the port city of Tyre, between the Israeli-occupied zone of South Lebanon and the rest of the country.

"If that doesn't work out, let the Red Cross take me to Switzerland," said the bearded Khodor, who has not seen his two children in more than 20 years.

The slim, bearded Joulani said he respected the Beirut government's decision not to let them stay in Lebanon. "We don't want to force ourselves on any country," he said.

Pilot killed, 4 injured in Tehran air crash

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian air force plane crashed into a school and apartment blocks here Tuesday during exercises for army day killing its pilot and injuring at least four people.

The official news agency IRNA said the pilot died when his Swiss-made TC-6 training plane plummeted from the skies.

Four people in a residential area of southern Tehran, including two schoolgirls and a woman, were injured by flying debris, IRNA said. But witnesses put the toll at around a dozen.

IRNA reported that the tail of the plane hit Shahid Bahrami girls school. The only two pupils in the yard at the time were slightly injured.

Other parts of the plane were scattered over a radius of 1,500 metres and windows were smashed, the agency said. The crash took place as the plane flew at low altitude during air manoeuvres.

IRNA denied an earlier report from witnesses that a mid-air collision was the cause of the crash. Iranian experts have launched an investigation.

Seconds before the accident several witnesses including an AFP journalist said they saw two planes fly too close to each other. Some witnesses said the plane's wing touched.

The plane was believed to have exploded while still in the air, explaining the low number of injuries. The densely-populated area where the debris landed, near a railway station, was sealed off by security forces.

A military source told IRNA that the training plane had crashed because of a technical failure while it was trying to land at Tehran's airport. In February 1993, an Iranian airliner and a Sukhoi-22 fighter plane collided killing 134 people after take-off from Mehrabad airport. And 39 people died in a crash near Sazeh, northwest of Tehran, in April 1992.

End in sight for Bahrain unrest, government says

MANAMA (Agencies) — Bahrain authorities said Tuesday that sporadic unrest here was nearly over and blamed extremist religious groups for planning the trouble.

In a statement published by local papers, Interior Minister Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Khalifa said riots which broke out in early December had been "incited by a foreign organisation."

"Through investigation, information and confessions made to the judges it was clear that an extreme religious organisation was behind them," he said.

He did not name the group or which foreign body had been behind the violence, saying only the "security situation in Bahrain is stable and acts of violence and unrest are coming to an end."

On Monday diplomats held a second meeting with Shiite leaders in bid to quell the unrest which has shaken the Gulf emirate since early December.

It followed the arrest and expulsion of a leading Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Ali Salman who had called for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

Bahrain has tacitly accused Iran of influencing the Gulf archipelago's Shiite Muslim community.

The minister's statement

Joulani said that last Thursday he and Khamis were taken blindfolded and handcuffed to the Jordanian border.

But he said he overheard an Israeli officer saying Jordan had refused to accept them.

They were returned to prison and taken to the Israeli-occupied sector in South Lebanon Monday.

There was no explanation why the men were not released in the Palestinian self-rule area in the Gaza Strip, which Mr. Arafat controls.

Both men said they want to go to Jordan, with Tunisia as a second choice, insisting they do not want to be sent back to Israel.

"If that doesn't work out, let the Red Cross take me to Switzerland," said the bearded Khodor, who has not seen his two children in more than 20 years.

The slim, bearded Joulani said he respected the Beirut government's decision not to let them stay in Lebanon. "We don't want to force ourselves on any country," he said.



NEW FORCE: Israel's new motorcycle squad chief Assaf Hefetz decided to create the force trains in occupied Jerusalem. The special quick response unit will go into action against Palestinians as well as petty criminals. Police

COLUMN

Briton faces judgement in child sex case

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A Briton charged with organising child sex tourism in Asia faces a maximum of one year in prison if he is found guilty by a Belgian court Wednesday. John Stamford, the British publisher of the Gay travel guide Spartacus, went on trial in the northern town of Turnhout last year after campaigners against child abuse and slavery compiled enough evidence to bring an action against him. The four organisations involved in the case, led by Swiss human rights group Terre Des Hommes, claim that Spartacus, an ostensibly innocent guide, is a front for an information network designed to direct European paedophiles to cheap child sex throughout Asia. Published by Stamford in Amsterdam since 1970, Spartacus has editions in five languages and sells an estimated 60,000 copies per year. Readers are invited to join the associated Spartacus Club, which according to Terre Des Hommes plays a central role in Mr. Stamford's network.

an erstwhile Muslim kingdom.

Mr. Stamford, basking in a warm reception in the Indian capital, said on Monday that Tehran and New Delhi should forge closer links and together maintain regional security.

The Iranian leader, speaking under tight security at a mosque in the northern city of Lucknow, said Iran wanted peace on the sub-continent and would assist India and neighbouring countries in maintaining stability.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin meanwhile told India the United States had "extremely strong concern" about Iran, which Washington has branded as an outlaw nation.

Mr. Rubin and Mr. Rafsanjani were both in India on official visits.

Mr. Rafsanjani met Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Monday, and Mr. Rubin voiced U.S. concern about Iran in a meeting with the Indian leader on Tuesday.

"Although it is outside my purview, I did not mention to (Rao)... the extremely strong concern of our government (about Iran)," Mr. Rubin told reporters in the Indian capital.

Washington has branded Iran an "outlaw nation," accusing it of sponsoring terrorism, fomenting trouble in the region and trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

Mr. Rubin said he would have postponed his visit to India if he had known long enough ahead of time that Mr. Rafsanjani would be in the country at the same time.

"If we had known in a timely fashion, we would have rescheduled," said Mr. Rubin.

The Iranian president returned to New Delhi following a four-hour visit to Lucknow, an ancient seat of Islamic learning and a capital of

India does not want a pipeline vulnerable to Pakistan.

World War II ex-PoW recovers distance of forced marches

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Graham Cousins got the idea of commemorating his own private hell from World War II by watching the D-Day anniversary of television last June. Amid all the allied veterans revisiting the bloody landing beaches of Normandy, "there was some young chap pedalling a glider across the English Channel," Cousins recalled. "They said he had to pedal six kilometers an hour to keep it going. Mr. Cousins said, "I thought, 'I can walk that fast. Why not?'" No, the retired oil man didn't try crossing the channel on foot. Rather, the 75-year-old laced on a pair of hiking boots five weeks ago and trekked 640 kilometers (400 miles) across northern South Africa, equalling the distance he crossed in the war's last winter as a prisoner of war in Germany. He ended his trek Monday, his "finish line" the gates of a Johannesburg Trade Show where he was greeted by military officials and a handful of surviving PoWs, part of the few hundred South Africans left alive of the tens of thousands who volunteered to fight for Britain in World War II. Mr. Cousins was one of some 10,000 South African troops captured in June 1942 when German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel broke the British lines and captured the vital Mediterranean city of Tobruk. The port, whose defenders became popularly known as the "desert rats," had held out for a year of siege. Mr. Cousins, a signerman, and the others were shipped to PoW camps in eastern Germany. As the Red Army pressed from Poland toward Germany in January 1945, the German SS pushed some quarter-million allied PoWs onto the winter roads to keep them from being liberated and fighting again.

Cyprus accuses Turkey of blackmailing EU

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Cyprus accused Turkish prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Tuesday of blackmailing the European Union (EU) by predicting a solution to the island's problems after her country became an EU member.

The statements make clear that the key to the problem's solution is in Ankara... also clear is Turkey's bid to blackmail the European Union using the Cyprus problem. Cyprus government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides told journalists.

Cyprus has been divided since the 1974 Turkish invasion sparked by a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by a military junta then ruling Greece.

U.N. efforts to reunite the island under a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal system have failed so far.

Ms. Ciller, scheduled to meet President Bill Clinton on Wednesday, referred to Cyprus at a news conference on Monday in the United States.

"I feel that the very ultimate, if we can get to the ultimate eventually, will be if and when Turkey becomes a full member of the European Union," Ms. Ciller said.

"Then the whole issue of Cyprus will be resolved when Turkey and Greece are within the same shelter," she added.

Cyprus said that it would take Ms. Ciller's comments up with the United States.

"They (the statements) also justify Turkey's intransigent stand on Cyprus throughout the years. We are going to set these statements